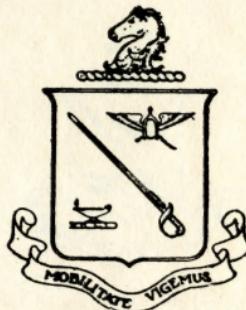




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HISTORY
OF
BLACK CLOUD,
WITH FACTS CONCERNING
THE MAMBRINO
AND OTHER
ROTTING FAMILIES.

FOXBORO:
R. W. S. BLACKWELL, PRINTER,
1879.

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PEDIGREE.

BLACK CLOUD, (full brother to Bonner's LADY STOUT.)

Jet black, small star, white hind ankle, 15 1-2 hands high, and weighs 1,110 lbs. Bred by John Stout, Midway, Woodford Co., Kentucky.

Sired by MAMBRINO PATCHEN, (full brother to Lady Thorn.) First dam, Puss Prall by Mark Time, son of Berthune. Second dam, daughter of Daniel Webster, son of Lance, son of American Eclipse, son of Duroc, son of IMP. DIOMED.

MAMBRINO PATCHEN, by MAMBRINO CHIEF. First dam by GANO, son of American Eclipse. Second dam by a son of Sir William, son of SIR ARCHY, son of IMP. DIOMED.

GANO by American Eclipse, son of Duroc, son IMP. DIOMED. First dam, Betsey Richards, by Sir Archy, son of IMP. DIOMED.

LANCE contained more of the blood of IMPORTED MESSENGER, and that through more approved channels, than any horse that ever lived, viz:—LANCE, by AMERICAN ECLIPSE, that was out of MILLER'S DAMSEL, best daughter of IMPORTED MESSENGER. Dam of LANCE, YOUNG

EMPEROR, by **FINANCIER**, by **TIPOO SAIB**, by **IMPORTED MESSENGER**.

The dam of **FINANCIER** was also by **IMPORTED MESSENGER**; **FINANCIER**'s great grand dam, by **BASHAW**, also noted as founding a family of trotters, the **CLAYS**, **PATCHENS**, etc. **EMPEROR**, the dam of **YOUNG EMPRESS**, was a granddaughter of **IMPORTED MESSENGER**. **BERTHUNE**, by **SIDI HAMET**, by **VIRGINIAN**, by **SIR ARCHY**, by **IMP. DIOMED**.

American Eclipse's dam was Miller's Damsel, daughter of **IMP. MESSENGER**. Second dam, Constable, Imp. Mare, by Pot 8 O's.

MAMBRINO CHIEF by **Mambrino Paymaster**, son of **Mambrino**, son of **IMP. MESSENGER**.

Black Cloud is universally conceded to surpass all the sons of his renowned sire, (who has sired the **MOST FAST TROTTERS, BY THE RECORD, OF ANY HORSE LIVING OF SIMILAR AGE**), and Black Cloud's full sister, Lady Stout, surpassed every colt that ever lived, of similar age, in the qualities of speed and endurance,—her public performance in 1874 never having been equaled up to the present time.

Black Cloud has never had but two weeks training, being intended for the stud. He trotted a half mile to exhibit his gait to visitors, without the slightest preparation, in 1:16 without skip or break, and had he been put upon the turf, it is the opinion of those best qualified to judge, that no living stallion would surpass him in speed and staying qualities.

KEEPING.

The facilities at Highlawn Farm for keeping mares and colts are unequaled, we believe, in the New England States. The place contains a private half mile track, and upwards of 225 acres of pasturage of great fertility. The stables contain every modern convenience, with an abundance of box stalls, with contiguous paddocks, etc. Judging from the past experience of the place, colts develop as rapidly here as in the famous blue grass regions of Kentucky. Highlawn being only 25 miles from Boston and 20 miles from Providence, is easily and quickly reached from all New England points, both north and south.

TERMS FOR THE SEASON, \$40,

payable at time of service. Mares not proving in foal can be returned the next season free of charge for service.

Mares will be well cared for at owner's risk, at \$1.50 a week at pasture, or \$2.50 while in stable. Beyond careful attention no responsibility is assumed.

Mares and colts will, if desired, be kept by the year at reasonable prices, and colts developed ready for use, on road or track.

Correspondence should be addressed to WM. T. COOK,
FOXBORO, MASS.

REMARKS.

Before calling special attention to the subject matter contained in the present issue, I have thought it proper to briefly consider some of the more general aspects of the various questions which pertain to the business of breeding the trotting and harness horse.

It must be evident to all, that many of the conditions and demands of the business have undergone a radical change during the last few years. Formerly the object in producing horses with trotting speed was confined to a single purpose, viz:—Those fast enough and suitable in temperament for the race track. Gradually, from various causes, it has become apparent that the speedy trotter may be utilized and applied to the legitimate business and pleasures of daily life. The trotter being purely the result of American ideas of the practical application and improvement of natural attributes, the national regard for, and pride in him, has augmented in just that measure in which his grand qualities have become developed and perfected.

Owing to the various causes of example, fashion and peculiar adaptability, the demand for trotters may almost be said to be universal in this country. This demand is rapidly increasing, and this increase, viewed from a business standpoint, is of the healthiest character. To be sure the buyer is becoming vastly more critical, and at present, instead of requiring but the single element of speed, he now insists upon the additional qualities of disposition, high form, style, perfection of gait, etc. In seeking a cause for so great a change we find that formerly the jockey had the entire charge of the trotter, and his value depended wholly upon his ability to beat his competitor on the track. Coincidently with a general demand for

the speedy and elegant trotter sprang up a common desire to breed and rear him. From time immemorial, it has been, in all civilized countries, the custom for men of the highest attainments and character to seek profit and pleasure in the raising of animals, and in no other branch of the business has there been so much thought and capital expended as upon the horse, the noblest of all, and the most capable of contributing to human enjoyment and necessities.

Many breeders desire to be assured that the business bids fair to be reasonably successful in the immediate future. Having a vital interest in this question, I have noted events and have endeavored to rightly construe the course and tendencies of the times in so far as it bears on the question at issue. I hereby present the following reasons which I consider as good and sufficient proof that the breeding of elegant and fast road and trotting horses is bound to be remunerative in the immediate future. As a mode of popular and sensible recreation, road driving is fast superseding all other rational outdoor amusements; nor is this confined alone to one sex. The well gaited and dispositioned trotter is so essentially the horse for all road work that the proposition does not require a single corroborative statement.

The trotting horse has irresistably worked himself into general popularity with all classes in this country, and with none more firmly than with our adopted citizens of European birth or parentage. His qualities are certain to commend themselves to the other nations of the globe, and already there are unmistakable signs that large drafts of trotters will be made from abroad during the next twelfth-month, and it will make comparatively short work of our surplus stock when the purses of the old world begin to open for the trotter of high form, blood and speed, as no inferior specimens will be likely to be accepted.

I look upon the Eastern and New England States as possessing peculiar facilities for breeding to supply the foreign demand, and it

is also well known that these states constitute, to a large extent, the market which absorbs the produce of the West. Consequently, Eastern breeders possess the decided advantage of vicinage to the best markets. Breeders may well find encouragement when a horse like Harry Clay, 26 years old, (with only one of his get having a record of 2.30 or better), sells at public auction for \$1000, or another instance at same sale, Administrator, 16 years old, and without a single one of his get ever having acquired a record of 2.30 or better, selling for \$2,550, or, better still, Black Cloud's cousin, Kentucky Prince, which brought last year, at public auction, the fine sum of \$10,700.

While at the present time a good deal is said about records, etc., of trotting, many look upon this phase of the question as of little or no importance; some making the remark that they do not desire to raise a fast colt. Undoubtedly they are candid in what they say, but if they reflect for a moment that it costs not a cent more to raise a colt with the qualities of speed, beauty of form and good blood, and take a little time to consider the ultimate influence upon the general value, they will be convinced without the need of additional argument. Besides it is often, indeed generally, very convenient to have horses that can, if called upon, show a superior rate of speed, particularly as this does not detract from their value for general purposes.

REQUISITES FOR A STALLION.

The above train of reflections naturally leads to a consideration of this question, and, as a guide to its solution, we first seek to learn what the market most demands. For ten years or more past, and especially for the last five, there has existed an unsatisfied demand for what is termed the "Park Horse," which may be thus described —Color, black, bay, or chestnut, with now and then dapple grey; size, from fifteen and a half to sixteen hands high, (a hand being

four inches), and weighing from a thousand to twelve hundred lbs; style, lofty and commanding; action, bold and high; disposition, spirited but tractable and courageous; carriage of head and tail should be at a good elevation, and there should be that peculiar form and finish throughout which pertains to the horse of good breeding and which it is impossible to obtain, with any degree of uniformity, without more or less admixture of Thorough blood. I know there has not been a day for ten years when such a pair of horses as above described, well broken to the use they are designed for, sound, young, and free from vice, could not sell readily for from \$1000 to \$3000, difference in value depending upon speed principally. This I claim pays the breeder an ample profit.

Another class of horses for which the demand is becoming much greater than for the one just described, is the Gentlemen's Driving Horse. As this differs in many respects from the park horse, I will state what I conceive to be a good general type for the roadster. Color, same as the former; size, from fifteen to fifteen and a half hands; weight from nine hundred to ten hundred and fifty lbs; somewhat heavier muscled and less rangy than the park or coupé horse; style should be equally good, with speed from three minutes down, according to inclination and means of owners; high breeding not quite so essential, but must be bred from some of the trotting families, and special regard must be had that he has decided trotting action and goes clean and square without the aid of boots, weights or pads. For this class of horses, the demand is staple and is rapidly augmenting. Road driving was never so popular as now and is fast increasing. Private and Club tracks are multiplying. Should the contemplated purchase of Beacon Park by two hundred and fifty private gentlemen be consummated, it will at once create a market for five hundred fast roadsters and trotters in and around Boston alone. It should be borne in mind that the fast track horse is not, by any means, necessarily a good road horse. On the contrary, the reverse

has generally been the case, chiefly from the fact that boots, weights and a heavy temperament were not objectionable so long as the horse could by any means be driven a quick mile. The question of disposition also assumes a very prominent place, as it makes a vast difference in this respect if the owner is to handle his horse. As it is to be borne in mind that the stallion for public service, whose use shall be remunerative to his owner, must be of such form, blood, and possess the qualities, to enable him to get with sufficient uniformity either one or the other kind of horse just described, I will briefly recapitulate the attributes which must characterize the horse and his produce. He must belong to the Family which has proved reliable for early development, of size, form and speed. These are absolutely indispensable requisites if the breeder hopes to turn his stock into cash without waiting too long for them to mature, during which period they are simply a bill of expense. Again, a sire must possess Thorough blood enough to enable him to perpetuate his own qualities as uniformly as possible. A mongrel bred horse seldom, or never, is to be depended upon in this respect.

Here in New England, where the trotting gait has been but little cultivated in a systematic way, it is essential that the sire for general service should be characterized by "too much gait" rather than a deficiency in this respect. This is necessary to overcome the inherent want of trotting action existing in the mares of this section.

The question of disposition is secondary in importance to no other. Remember that important interests are daily confided to the good or bad behavior of the horse, and decide whether you will breed to the cross, surly, obstinate, balky, dull, lazy brute, or to one characterized by qualities the reverse, viz:—Gentleness, spirit, intelligence, tractability, ambition, courage, affection and all the attributes that endear the good horse to his owner. To a very great extent, form and expression, are indications of disposition. The big-headed, slab sided, long-legged, flat muscled brute will most assuredly be lymphat-

ic in temperament, awkward and ungainly in disposition as he is disproportioned in formation. While careful grooming, a thick coat of fat and little or no real work may conceal the true character of such a horse, never doubt that the truth will be soon enough apparent whenever the beast is called upon to show his bottom at daily labor on the road or farm.

By trotting action is meant raising and bending the knee well, straddling the hind limbs somewhat, with a long stride and enough rapidity of motion to insure speed. A stallion in use as a sire must go clean, and free from need of boots, weights and pads. It simply renders him worthless for procreating horses for general purposes if he be obliged to wear such rigging in speeding. It is this which constitutes the difference between true and false gait. Its real value is beyond computation in its practical application. Lastly, the sire must possess beauty of form and outline, finish, substance and style. In fact all the "points" of the stallion may exist somewhat in excess, from the fact, as before stated, that mares in this region need pronounced qualities to overcome their own deficiencies. In closing this chapter, let me once more endeavor to call attention to the immense influence upon the equine interests of the country exerted by a single good stallion. How important then, that a thorough and comprehensive knowledge be obtained of the sire which one proposes to patronize.

TO OWNERS OF MARES.

There are some things in which amateur breeders and those not having much experience may like to know, and which will perhaps enable them to make a saving in time, trouble and money.—The matter of TRANSPORTATION of mares is important where they are to be sent any distance to stallion. It can however be done with comparatively little trouble or expense by simply knowing the best method. Formerly it was customary to drive mares many miles, even with a very young foal by side. But by far the better way is to transport by railroad. This method invariably saves time, expense and fatigue to self and animal. The expense per head can also be greatly decreased if several owners combine and ship their mares from some station easily accessible to all. In this manner a dozen mares, or less, may be sent in a single car, and all the roads make special reduction in such cases by previous agreement.

Where mares are sent from a distance, it is always well to leave them sufficiently long to ascertain whether they become in foal.—As a rule, mares come in heat about once in three weeks, and remain in condition to take the stallion for at least seven days. There is some variation in this respect, as certain mares go only two weeks, and even less, between periods. Where a mare has been bred to stallion and shows no sign of heat for a month, it furnishes first-class evidence for considering her in foal.

All the mares which came to Black Cloud last season and remained here a few weeks in pasture, made great improvement in flesh, condition of feet, etc., in some instances deriving enough benefit in this way alone to almost pay the service fee of the stallion. In many cases the most economical way to restore the mare to good condition when ailing or lame, from any cause, is to breed her and give a season at grass. Having a colt under these conditions seems to entirely renovate the system and to add at the same time to the value of the mare by reason of permanent improvement.

A COMPARISON OF THE TROTTING FAMILIES.

Strictly speaking, these comprise five, viz:—the Abdallah (chiefly through Rysdyk's Hambletonian); the Mambrino (descendants of Mambrino Chief); the Bashaw, which includes the Clays as the most noted branch; the Morgan, (descendants of Justin Morgan,) which in the male line has given us the Knoxes, Lamberts, Black Hawks, Allens, etc., and, lastly, we have the Canadians, comprising, in their various branches, the Royal Georges, Toronto Chiefs, Columbuses, Normans, etc. These severally comprise elements of great value, and the mission of the progressive breeder is to possess himself of the more desirable of these, and to settle the question by a careful comparison of the standard qualities, which pertain with more or less uniformity to each breed. Any one of the families mentioned may, by proper selection, furnish an out-cross of great value. It is likewise important to study the question of relative prepotency of the male or female line in each of the families herein spoken of, as there exists great difference in this respect. As the value of families, or individual members thereof, has come to depend largely on their performances upon the turf and their consequent showing with reference to the records, it becomes important, in a business point of view, that a just comparison be instituted and the claims of each to trotting speed satisfactorily established. As the Bashaw is not found at all in blood of the individuals selected for the purposes designated, and the Canadians likewise, excepting through certain pacing families, I am obliged to confine my remarks to a comparison of the two families which by the record greatly lead all others in speed elements.

In instituting an examination of this character, certain conditions are to be observed, among which are the following. First, the relative proportion of fast trotters to the entire number of a given horse's get; Second, the opportunities for development sustained in each case, which includes the percentage of entire get, trained and

brought out; Third, the character, blood and speed of the mares through which the sire has produced his stock; Fourth, the skill and experience of trainers, owners and breeders; Fifth, the length of time which has elapsed since individual sires attained sufficient prominence to cause their get to reach skilled hands; and, what is of still greater importance, as touching ultimate results, the prominence of the sire as regards his supposed ability to get fast trotters, which manifestly exerts almost unequalled influence in procuring him a class of mares that have already demonstrated their reliability as the dams of trotters. But the point of vastly more importance than any of the preceding is to ascertain which family, or individuals therein, have proven themselves possessed of the power to **TRANSMIT** their most valuable qualities to **SUCCEEDING GENERATIONS, IN AN EQUAL OR INCREASING RATIO**; and indeed it may be truly said that the whole importance of comparison hinges upon this single factor of the problem. My own absolute conviction is that in the immediate future we are destined to find the qualities of **FORM, EARLY DEVELOPMENT, TEMPER, DRIVING QUALITIES, ETC.**, assuming a far more prominent position than heretofore, and I am entirely confident that the breeder who intends to produce stock of uniform high values must cherish the above named attributes, equally with that of speed, if he expects to make quick and ready sales, which constitute, in nearly every instance, the reliable margin for profit in business.

Beginning with Rysdyk's Hambletonian, as the great representative of the Abdallah family, we find, by reference to the Register, that he was foaled in the year 1849, in Orange County, N. Y. He began serving mares at two years of age and continued in the stud, with the largest and most select patronage ever bestowed upon a trotting stallion, until his death at twenty-seven. It is safe to say that no horse was ever more judiciously used; and almost all his life he had nothing but tried mares, or those of that strain of blood

which had proven successful in the production of speed at the trotting gait. In addition to these inestimable advantages named, his location was the best known for the purpose of establishing early reputation. Essentially the pet of the metropolis, of the population and wealth, as well as of the breeding and trotting interests, he had, besides, the potent and powerful influence of a press, which was all his life used unsparingly to set forth his merits as a sire of trotters, and is it to be wondered at that his career was without a parallel in the number of his get which were put into the breeding stud or were trained for track purposes?

The forte of the Hambletonian has been essentially that of the track horse. In neither form, temper, style, or gait, does the typical animal of this breed approximate the requirements for road or general-purpose horse. Yet, as was stated at the beginning of this essay, the family have undoubtedly contributed, and will so continue to do, elements of great value to the improvement of speed at the trotting gait.

THE MAMBRINO CHIEF FAMILY.

Of all the trotting strains of blood that have furnished the breeder with improvement in form, disposition, early speed and high prices, none can bear comparison with this. From the time of the founder of the breed until the present, they have labored under the most serious disadvantages, both by reason of unfavorable location, lack of adequate press support and other reasons, to be enumerated. The history of the family is one of great interest, and exemplifies in a remarkable degree the well worn adage that "blood and merit are sure to win."

Mambrino Chief was a bay horse and foaled in 1844. His sire was Mambrino Paymaster, by Mambrino, by Imported Messenger. Dam's blood wholly unknown. She produced Goliah that also developed considerable speed. He was bred by Richard Eldridge, of

Dutchess County, N. Y. After passing through the hands of several owners he was sold to James B. Clay, of Kentucky, in the winter of 1854, and in 1857 was sold to Gray & Jones of Woodford County, Ky., for \$5,020. Died in 1861.

Let us look at the disadvantages the Mambrinos have, by reason of circumstances, been obliged to encounter, and then examine their showing by the record. If any one can then doubt their manifest superiority over all others, their prejudice is too deep rooted for facts to be of the least importance. Mambrino Chief went to Kentucky long before the breeding of trotters had become popularized in that section, as the wealth and intelligence of the whole south were, at this time, devoted to the raising and running of thoroughbreds, trotting being then exceedingly unfashionable. In this location he encountered no mares that were possessed of trotting blood, or that were trotters themselves. What he accomplished in producing trotters then was due wholly to his own qualities being sufficiently strong to overpower whatever he might meet, even though the trotting gait was foreign to their nature, by reason of hundreds of generations of saddle or running education, and the formation and breeding adapted thereto. With the exception of Dr. Herr, there was, at the time herein mentioned, probably no trainer of trotters in the whole state of Kentucky. The handling of runners being almost wholly intrusted to the ignorant negroes. About the time his oldest colts became old enough to appear on the turf, the war broke out and many of the most valuable were either stolen, killed, or sold for safety to other states. Others went into the service, never to be heard of afterwards. This check to breeding was long and severe.

We may infer from these facts that Mambrino Chief served comparatively few mares, and those of inferior quality. He never had an opportunity to cover mares that, by their own blood and speed, might aid him in imparting the desired attributes to his offspring.

He died after making barely seven seasons in Kentucky; consequently he suffers under the terrible disadvantage of immense discrepancy in numbers, when compared with any other trotting family. If under circumstances as above stated, Mambrino Chief could succeed, as the record shows, in founding a family with greater uniformity of trotting speed than all others, it, to my mind, argues unquestionable inherent superiority as a sire.

I propose, for the purpose of making a comparison, to give, first, the public records of say six of the fastest stallions now living, with sire and dam, so far as known, then, the record of the get of six of the popular stallions which have been principally reserved for the stud. I leave Smuggler out of the table from the fact that he does not belong to a trotting family, being, as is well known, a natural pacer.

TABLE SHOWING BEST RECORD,

WITH SIRE AND DAM, OF THE SIX FASTEST LIVING TROTTING STALLIONS.

Hannis.	Record, 2.19 1-4.	By Mambrino Pilot.	Dam, Morgan.
Mambrino Gift.	" 2.20.	" " "	by Pilot, Jr.
Bonesetter.	" 2.20.	" Brooks.	" by Stump the [Dealer.]
Gov. Sprague.	" 2.20 1-4.	" Rhode Island.	Dam by Hambletonian.
Scott's Thomas.	" 2.21.	" Geo.H.Thomas.	Inbred Mambrino.
Indianapolis.	" 2.21.	" Tattler.	Dam by Mambrino [Chief.]
Voltaire.	" 2.21 1-4.	" "	Dam by Mambrino [Chief.]

This table is exceedingly suggestive—and why? Simply because of the six fastest trotting bred stallions, as established by the public record, all but one are Mambrinos on the side of either sire or dam, and only one of them (one of the slowest) has any Hambletonian blood. Had we extended the list, so as to include the three next fastest, we should have found them all Mambrinos, viz:—Hambletonian Mambrino, 2.21 1-4, Woodford Mambrino, 2.21 1-2, and Abbottsford, 2.21 1-2.

TABLE

Showing Blood and Names of get, in 2.30 list, of the six most popular living Stallions.

MAMBRINO PATCHEN, by **MAMBRINO CHIEF**; Dam by **GANO**,
by **AMERICAN ECLIPSE**, etc,

Mambrino Kate, public record 2.24; can beat 2.18 and show 3 to average age that figure.

The Jewess, 6 years old; record 2.26. Trotted Col. West's track in 2.19; Dam is a pacer.

Mambrino Boy, record 2.26 1-2. Trotted 1-4 mile in 33 seconds and is a stayer.

Lady Stout. (full sister to Black Cloud), 3 years old, public record 2.29, in which race were 17 entries of best 3 year olds the world ever saw, including Proteine and Blackwood, Jr., both since very noted. Lady Stout distanced the entire field with the exception of Blackwood, Jr. whom she easily beat. One day intervening, on the same track she trotted in the presence of thousands and was timed by the official judges, as follows:—2 30 1-4, 2.28 3-4, 2.28, which performance has never, before or since, been even approached by a colt of her age for either speed, or that greater quality, endurance.

Lady Lowe, public record 2.28. Very good in her class.

George, public record 2.29 3-4.

Katie Middleton, 5 years old; record 2.30; can trot low down in the twenties.

Girl E. Queen, 3 years old; public record, 4th heat, 2.33 1-4. Trotted a quarter at rate of 2.23.

Belle Patchen, 2 years old; record, second heat, 2.41 1-2.

Rothschilds, 3 years old; record 2.41 1-2.

Kate Patchen, 3 years old; record 2.45.

Mambrino Oliver, private trial, 2.27 1-4.

Elmwood, " " 2.28.

Mambrino Mack, " " 2.30.

Graphic, 2.30.

Mambrino Bertie at 2 years of age trotted in public over the Buckeye track at Cincinnati on a stormy day, and track in rough condition, [the colt purging and out of condition], a third mile in 2.41, and a two mile heat in 5.29 1-2. He was then purchased by Robert Bonner, who has since stated in a published letter, that he has repeatedly driven him a 2.20 gait to a road wagon, and that he is very game and can trot all day. Mr. Bonner further states that he does not think there is a stallion in the

country whose colts have more endurance than those sired by Mambrino Patchen.

Black Cloud, entirely untrained and without the slightest preparation, trotted a half mile to exhibit his gait to visitors, on a rough half mile track, [not adapted to his big gait] in 1.16, without the least break or skip, and it was the opinion of those who witnessed the performance that he could easily have gone on and made the mile in 2.30 or better.

But there are other reasons, not yet mentioned, which render the get of Mambrino Patchen infinitely superior to the get of all other living sires. I allude to their wonderful uniformity of good disposition, high form, style, true gait and blood horse appearance. It is the universal testimony that he is unrivalled in these highly important characteristics, and we find him possessed of another quality in comparison with which all others dwindle into utter insignificance. It is the power of perpetuating his speed by endowing his sons in an even greater degree than he himself possesses; for we find him at an age (15 years), when no other horse in the world is the grandsire of a 2.30 or better trotter, to have two sons that have got better than 2.30 trotters, viz:—Mambrino Wagner (by Mambrino Patchen), sired Glendale whose record is 2.27 1-4, and who trotted a trial in 2.19 3-4. Also Forest King (by Mambrino Patchen), sired Lida Bassett whose record is 2.25 as a six year old, and who can probably beat 2.20. We also note that in the great colt stakes, closed last autumn in Kentucky, that Mambrino Patchen has probably **FOUR TIMES** as many sons represented by their get in these great events as any other living sire. I recall eight of his sons that have sired colts entered in the “big stakes,” viz:—Black Cloud, Mambrino Time, (full brother to Black Cloud), Mambrino Hatchet, Hemphill’s Patchen, Homer, Mambrino King, Mambrino Abdallah, and Mambrino Downing. He is also represented by several daughters whose produce are in the same stakes. I have thus briefly sketched the most salient facts regarding Mambrino Patchen to enable readers to draw their own conclusions as to whether he

has not furnished the most valuable family yet known for breeding purposes.

Following Mambrino Patchen I shall give a list of Almont's get inside 2.30.

ALMONT has, as is well known, a high reputation. His breeding is as follows:—Sired by Alexander's Abdallah, dam by Mambrino Chief. As he is half Mambrino himself, the record shows that his most notable and uniform successes have been achieved by adding a little more of the same blood, as witness—

Allie West. Record 2.25, at 5 years. By Almont. Dam by Mambrino [Chief.

BELMONT by Alexander's Abdallah, is very deservedly prominent as the sire of trotters. His dam, like Almont's, is by Mambrino Chief. He has in the 2.30 list the following—

Nutwood 2.23, Dick Moore and Nil Desperandum, each 2.24.

BLACKWOOD is a horse of great merit, both as a trotter and sire of trotters, being the first to attain a record of 2.31 as a 3 year old.— He is by Alexander's Norman, and his dam, like the others, is by Mambrino Chief. His daughter, Protiene, considered the fastest mare on the turf, is a double Mambrino, her dam being by Mambrino Chorister.

Protiene's record 2.19 1-4; Blackwood, Jr., record 2.22 1-4, won the Stallion Cup at the Centennial.

Messenger Duroc, by Rysdyk's Hambletonian, has the following to his credit. At first sight it seems good showing, but when we reflect that all are out of two mares by Harry Clay, we are forced to ask the question what would be his showing if he had never chanced

to encounter those two particular mares?

The records are, Prospero, 2.20, Dame Trot, 2.22, Elaine, 2.24 1-4, all being the foals of Green Mountain Maid; and Hogarth, 2.26, out of Hattie Hogan.

Volunteer, by Hambletonian, has proved very successful as the sire of track horses, being credited with no less than 18 in the 2.30 list. His stock is eminently adapted for track purposes and no other, the gait peculiar to the family being long and low, inclining most of them to stumble badly on the road. A very serious fault with Volunteer consists in the fact that his sons are almost universal failures for stud purposes, as he was 24 years old before he had a single son that had sired a 2.30 trotter; and now, at 25, he has barely one son that has accomplished that feat, and this he does more by reason of his dam's breeding than his sire's, his dam, (the son's) being by Old Abdallah.

I have thus endeavored to give a brief but impartial individual account of the more prominent trotting stallions and sires now before the country, and have aimed to introduce only those which common consent gives a foremost place. I leave it to the reader to form his own judgment as to the comparative standing of Black Cloud's immediate family—the Mambrino Patchens. It is enough to say simply that they are unrivaled, which the records amply prove.

A little generalization and I am through with this subject. We find by the records up to date, that Rysdyk's Hambletonian got forty-three sons that have sired in the aggregate eighty-two trotters with records of 2.30, or better, giving an average of a little less than two fast trotters for each sire of the family. On the other hand Mambrino Chief sired sixteen sons that have in the aggregate sired forty-one trotters with records of 2.30, or better, giving an average for each sire of considerably more than two and a half fast trotters each, mathematically considered, which establishes the fact, beyond cavil, that the sons of Mambrino Chief are much more prepotent and

produce trotters with greater uniformity than the sons of Rysdyk's Hambletonian. We also find that in the case of Hambletonian, and his sons, they require mares of peculiar blood and temperament to produce successful results, while the Mambrinos are successful on a wide range of blood and qualities, it seemingly making but little difference what they were coupled with. Take, to illustrate this point, Messenger Duroc and Mambrino Patchen, representatives of the respective families. The former accomplishing nothing except with two mares by Harry Clay, while on the other hand Mambrino Patchen, who almost doubles M. Duroc in his number in the magic list, got no two out of the same mare, on the contrary, seeming to hit with all bloods about equally well. As brood mares the Hambletonians are absolute failures, Hambletonian, out of nearly seven hundred mares having produced but four that have been the dams of 2.30, or better, trotters, while Mambrino Chief's very few daughters have produced double or treble that number. Exactly the same state of things continues in succeeding generations.

Finally, where do we find the useful qualities, such as early development of size and speed, good disposition, soundness of legs and feet? I reply that the Mambrinos are pre-eminently distinguished for these attributes. The breed has proved a mine of wealth to owners and breeders for just the reasons enumerated, having made ready sale as much on account of the useful qualities as of the more speculative values.

TO THE PUBLIC.

The owners of Black Cloud desire to call attention to certain points demanding the consideration of those intending to breed. First, a short retrospect of last years success. He came here in the hands of parties of no reputation as horsemen; no experience in the business; not a mill was spent to place his merits before the public, or even to inform them of the existence of such a horse, yet in the

face of all these obstacles his success, from the first, was without a precedent. His patrons were men of the highest position and judgment, and it is, we fully believe, safe to state that no Stallion in New England exceeded him in either number or quality of mares served. Were we asked to give an explanation of all this, we state our own convictions that it was due as much to his unrivalled form and style, combined with his wonderful disposition as to his magnificent trotting inheritance and remarkable speed. Last season almost nothing was known of the quality and speed of his colts, from previous circumstances necessarily limited as regards numbers. Now, however, we have the satisfaction to point with pride to the character of his colts here, and some got before he left Kentucky we expect will, before very long, speak for themselves and attest their own merit. We simply remark that they are considered promising enough by Kentucky breeders of the largest experience to be entered in every event open to their ages. In other instances they are to be kept for stud purposes, which is the highest evidence of their quality.

OUR REASONS FOR BELIEVING IN THE MERITS OF BLACK CLOUD AS A SIRE.

Individually, he possesses all the requisites for a successful sire. Is perfect in Form, Gait, Disposition and Style. WE KNOW HIM TO POSSESS SPEED OF THE HIGHEST ORDER, and had he been reserved and trained for turf purposes he would, beyond a doubt, have attained a record equal to the best. His aunt, Lady Thorn, (the full sister to his sire, making Black Cloud, so far as blood is concerned, bear the relation to her of son) was, previous to being crippled, beyond all cavil, the fastest trotter the world ever saw. As a natural sequence, we would expect a full brother to such a mare to sire trotters, especially as they belonged to a family which had demonstrated its unrivalled prepotency in producing speed. This

logic proved essentially sound, for we find Mambrino Patchen, by the public record, has sired more fast trotters than any other stallion of his age in the world. Advancing a degree further, we find Black Cloud to be a full brother to the best that Mambrino Patchen ever got, as demonstrated by her turf performance, her public time as a three year old never having been equalled for speed and endurance. In just the measure that Lady Stout exceeded Lady Thorn in trotting speed according to age, ought we reasonably to expect that Black Cloud would surpass Mambrino Patchen as the sire of trotters. To establish the fact that he is a great sire, we call attention to the quality of his colts, not speed indications merely, but those other essentials which are no less important in fixing the value of horses. We refer to disposition, form, gait, style, etc., in all of which attributes the get of Black Cloud seem to us simply unequalled.—We call attention once more to the fact that his immediate family are developing speed-getting qualities younger than any other.

Black Cloud's success as a foal getter has been remarkable. So far as we are able to judge at the present writing, he did not miss over four per cent. of all mares served last season. In two instances he got mares in foal that had been bred to other horses for three successive seasons without results. These mares are very old, and one had never had a colt previously, but is now heavy and due to drop foal in June. This "sure" quality is of great value in stallions, often saving owners of mares much disappointment and expense.

[From the Boston Journal, June 1, 1878.]

TROTTING HORSES.

THEIR BREEDING, ETC.

Number Nine.

BY C. A. B.

STOCK HORSES—BLACK CLOUD.

This horse is as yet comparatively little known to New England breeders, but if a rich endowment of grand qualities, combined with the best strains of trotting blood that have yet appeared, are calculated to furnish a claim to renown, he cannot long remain in obscurity. It would be contrary to the established order of nature, which wills that the great and noble of all species shall ultimately establish their superiority. The history of Black Cloud can be briefly stated as follows: Was foaled the property of John Stout, of Woodford County, Ky. At weaning time was sold to Dr. L. Herr, of Lexington, Ky., and when eleven months old was sold to Mr. Wadsworth, a prominent citizen of Geneseo, N. Y. Mr. Wadsworth bought him with the intention of having him gelded and using him for driving purposes, as his then perfect form and gait gave sure promise of the great excellence to which he has since attained. As the colt grew in size and increased in age his super-excellent qualities of gait and form became so apparent that his owner could not bring himself to carry out his original intention of gelding, and not being much of a

horseman he gave the young fellow much the same treatment as other colts receive until he was broken to harness at three years past. From this time until purchased by Col. Penistan, he had merely ordinary road exercise, having never been put on a track. The fall of his five-year-old form he was purchased by Col. Richard Penistan, of New York city, and immediately transferred thither. This purchase was made solely from the fact that Black Cloud, being full brother to the wonderful young mare, Lady Stout, whose three-year-old performance in 1874 of trotting a third heat in 2.28, is to this day unrivaled and without a parallel in turf annals.

Immediately upon reaching New York the young stallion was put to work on Prospect Park track, and in just two weeks to a day, Gus Glidden gave him a mile in the presence of a large number of horsemen and turfites in 2.36 1-2. This was justly considered a remarkable performance under the circumstances for a five-year-old, and it now being late in the fall, it was decided to retire him to winter quarters, and accordingly he was shipped to Mr. Penistan's farm in Kentucky. It was finally decided to follow the example of prominent breeders, like Dr. Herr, Mr. Backman and others who never have allowed their stallions used for service to be exposed to the wear and tear of a race course, believing as they do that the danger of accident, etc., makes the risk too great to endanger a valuable stock horse in this manner. Besides, another reason, more potent still, is as Dr. Herr states it. He does "not consider it desirable that a horse used for procreative purposes should have the last second driven out of him." If anything is needed to confirm the wisdom of this view, I have merely to point to results achieved as stock horses by Mambrino Patchen and Messenger Duroc, neither of whom have ever participated in a public race.

Mr Penistan in 1876 sold his farm in Kentucky and gave up the business of breeding, his stock being closed out at auction, he retaining a few of the choicest only. These, including Black Cloud,

Nil Desperandum, etc., were shipped East, the former remaining at Mr. Robert Steel's Cedar Park Stud Farm, near Philadelphia, until purchased by his present owner, Dr.C. A. Bemis, of West Medway, Mass., who selected him after long deliberation and examination of many specimens of the different trotting families.

The further description of the horse will furnish sufficient explanation of some of the motives that led to his purchase with the view of placing him permanently in the breeding stud.

In describing the horse I shall necessarily omit many minutiae, which will perhaps be noticed by those examining the horse, which is now accessible to parties in this section.

In giving the pedigree of Black Cloud I wish to state here the, of course evident, fact that it is also Lady Stout's (his full sister) whose history supplements the present article. This method I take to illustrate the result of the breeding that produced Lady Stout and Black Cloud.

PEDIGREE.

BLACK CLOUD, black horse, sired by **MAMBRINO PATCHEN**, (full brother to **LADY THORN**), first dam of **BLACK CLOUD**, **PUSS PRALL**, by **MARK TIME**, son of **BERTHUNE**; second dam by **DANIEL WEBSTER**, son of **LANCE**, who was by **AMERICAN ECLIPSE**, and **ECLIPSE** was by **DUROC**, out of Miller's **DAMSEL**, the best daughter of imported **MESSENGER**. Bred by John Stout, Esq., Midway, Woodford County Ky.

Here we see in the pedigree of Puss Prall a very strong infusion of those strains of thoroughbred blood that have proved the most potent as trotting crosses. This breeding produced Mr. Bonner's Grafton, with his public trial of 2.15, and the blood of Eclipse enters into a host of the very best and stoutest trotters ever yet produced. From it Smuggler is descended on his sire's side, as likewise was Old Pocahontas, the pacer. We note also that these thoroughbreds, aside from their potency as trotting crosses, were the stoutest and most re-

nowned race horses of their day, noted alike for speed, courage and bottom, and for being the victors of the hardest fought contests on record. Those who recognize the immense value of the Messenger blood will notice the strong infusion which Puss Prall receives through Lance who inherited more of the blood of imported Messenger, and through more approved channels than any other horse that ever lived. This greatly enhances the value of Black Cloud as a sire.

Mambrino Patchen is recorded as follows: "Black horse, foaled in 1862, got by Mambrino Chief, dam, the dam of Lady Thorn, by Gano, son of American Eclipse, grandam by son of Sir William, bred and owned by Dr. L. Herr, Lexington, Ky." This is supplemented by a more extended pedigree in tabulated form, from which we find that on the dam's side he has a double Imp. Diomed cross through those two most approved lines of Sir Archy and Duroc. Mr. Murray states that he considers Imp. Diomed as not a whit behind Messenger in merit. Of the intrinsic richness of this breeding there cannot be a doubt; it is the best yet found, judged by results. Of the merits of his sire I need say nothing more than has been done in a former article. I believe him, all things considered, incomparably superior to any other horse of his generation. Judged by the record, the only real test, and Mambrino Patchen is the most successful of Mambrino Chief's sons, and judged by the same infallible test, as a sire of trotters, Mambrino Patchen ranks as the most successful in the world of his age, having more trotters with record below 2.30 to his credit than any horse of like age. Besides, what is in reality of far greater value as constituting merit in a sire, that quality which enables him to perpetuate himself in his sons and daughters, by "breeding on," which he has placed to his credit at so early an age (15 years) a granddaughter, Lida Bassett, record 2.25, grandson, Glendale, record 2.27 1-4, the former being sired by Forest King, the latter by Mambrino Wagner; both these, as be-

fore stated, sired by Mambrino Patchen, and *he as yet comparatively a young horse.*

This showing of speed will, perhaps, be considered sufficient, and I shall briefly quote the views of other horsemen regarding some of the other qualities of the get of Mambrino Patchen—form, style, quality, endurance, soundness, disposition, etc.—attributes hardly second to speed, if we consider their importance in the composition of the perfect horse. Quoting from Dr. Herr's Catalogue of 1875, in his account of Mambrino Patchen: “He is not predisposed to any disease from the fact as stated that he has never been sick to indicate any such predisposition. In disposition he is perfect, he drives on his courage, not requiring either whip or cluck, and never comes back until pulled back. He is, in short, as untiring and as hard to discourage as any horse, and what is remarkable he imparts to his offspring the qualities for which he is characterized—extra size, style, high finish, fine temper and speed.” In his announcement for 1878, Dr. Herr further says: “No stallion of Mambrino Patchen’s age has bred as much speed and game, and when it comes to style, grand rangy appearance, showing blood and quality, it is universally acknowledged he has no equal, his colts having something to attract attention on the road or park when not at their best speed, the owners feeling complimented by the admiration expressed by those who have an eye for something above a brute who cannot attract attention except when going his best rate. My system for breeding is not for speed alone, but to keep and improve the step for speed, with style and quality, so that buyers can show a horse not only fast, but grand, with blood-horse quality. As a family the get of Mambrino Patchen are as good tempered and good feeders, as healthy and clear of defects, as any family known. No bad feet, quarter crack, thrush or contractions.”

To give additional testimony as to the qualities of the get of Mambrino Patchen, I quote from the preface to the catalogue of Mr. B.

J. Treacy, of Lexington Ky., a breeder and trainer of very great success and experience. "While pointing out the very many defects that horses are heir to, which leaves them almost worthless as trotters, there is one thing that trainers are the greatest sufferers from, and that is training the offspring of unsound stallions, and especially the quitter. How many competent trainers lose a good situation and are censured by hundreds of spectators when driving the offspring of some speedy, but rank quitter, that had been sold at a high figure, but when tested could not stay a race."

The owners of the sires of such colts, in order to screen the defective produce, very often go around and try to throw the blame on the trainer by stating that he, the trainer, drove the colt or filly too fast to the half or three-quarter poles, and on that account lost the race, etc. Well, this is their excuse for the former advertising colt. I have handled the get of two of the most prominent stallions in Kentucky, and find the get of one stallion so much superior to that of the other, in point of staying qualities, that I would sooner put money on one colt of from two to four seconds less speed than risk it on a colt the get of the other at an advantage of even as high as five seconds. For instance the get of Mambrino Patchen. I am confident his produce can beat the get of any stallion in Kentucky of equal speed, as has been proved in all their races so far as tested. I don't mention Mambrino Patchen to court the friendship of Dr. Herr, but in justice to the horse himself." As bearing on this question of game and endurance, I quote the opinion of Mr. Robt. Bonner, confessedly one of the most candid men and best judges of trotting horses in the country. In a letter he says: "Mambrino Bertie is trotting very fast. He has repeatedly shown me a 2.20 gait to road wagon; he is a very game horse and can trot all day. I do not believe there is a stallion in the country whose colts have more endurance than those sired by Mambrino Patchen."

The *Kentucky Live Stock Record*, Jan. 19, 1878, after giving a

list of the get of many different sires that have trotted in 2.30 and under, says: "What we desired most was to call attention to five stallions in this list, who are near the same age, and are rivals for public favor and fame, namely, Mambrino Patchen, Belmont, Blackwood, Almont, and Messenger Duroc. Mambrino Patchen has the most colts who have beaten or trotted in that time, five to his credit, Belmont three, Blackwood four, Almont three, Messenger Duroc three. Belmont, Blackwood and Mambrino Patchen families top Messenger Duroc, notwithstanding his high fame and popularity East. Kentucky's young trotters and sires hold their own when tried by the turf test with those of any section of the country, if they do not surpass them."

Believing the foregoing amply sufficient to establish the value of the source from whence sprung Black Cloud, I shall attempt a description of his appearance, form, gait, etc. As his name indicates, he is a black, horse *very black*, with a medium sized star in forehead and white hind ankles, extending a little above the pasterns. There is also a little line of white along the inside of the coronet of the near front foot, which mark has not heretofore been alluded to in descriptions of the horse. His marks are exactly like those of his full sister, Lady Stout. He has that rare appearance termed mottled, and alluded to in connection with the description of Taggart's Abdallah. It can only exist in those of very fine and short hair, and this feature is probably as marked in Black Cloud as in any living horse. The gloss and fineness of his coat could only have been derived from his thoroughbred ancestry. In height he measures precisely fifteen hands and two inches. He is a somewhat lower horse than this measurement would indicate from the fact that he is considerably higher on the withers than trotting stallions average, partaking in this respect largely of the form of his sire. It has been intimated in the foregoing remarks that Mambrino Patchen gets handsome horses. Black Cloud perhaps commands as much admira-

tion for looks as ever fell to the lot of any horse. It is that involuntary homage that the genuine lover of the equine race yields to its highest types of perfection of form and figure. To my thinking no horse was ever made more perfectly to delight the eye than Black Cloud. Perhaps, if I may so express it, his mental qualities, as indicated in his bearing, formation of head, evidence of brain capacity and his mobility of countenance, all evince in terms unmistakable his inborn superiority in so much as regards the influence of mind on physical expression, which is no less observable in the dumb animal than it is plain in higher types. His temperament is that which horsemen term level, i. e., calm under those conditions which would cause horses less richly endowed with nerve to lose command of the volitional powers to an extent incompatible with the maintenance of the most effective exertion. The sooner that horsemen realize the fact that brain is an essential part of the horse economy, the sooner will their efforts to improve the speed be rewarded with real success. The subject of our sketch is of that organization that while not inclined, while either on the track or road, to wear out his strength in vain and useless efforts, is, when occasion arises, capable of putting forth, in long continued exertion, every faculty of body and mind. His disposition is essentially obedient, and he enters into and strives to execute the desires of his master. Insensibly, he takes on and becomes imbued with the same intense desires to excel and conquer rivals. On the other hand, he does not like strangers in close contact, evincing his dislike by unmistakable signs of warning to them to preserve a proper distance. In this trait he closely resembles his famous aunt, Lady Thorn, who is stated to have almost refused food unless fed by the customary attendant. On the road he is a very cheerful and free driver, without being in the least a puller. He recently accomplished a drive of 28 miles on rough roads in a few minutes over three hours, including a good many stops and chats indulged in by his driver. This was done entirely

without urging, and no whip was carried at all. He is, I think, the fastest walker I have ever known, a great rarity for a fast trotter. His gait at the trot I shall attempt to describe. Those who have seen others of the get of Mambrino Patchen trot will have no difficulty in comprehending my description. It is a family gait in most respects. As a whole, he may be said to be "large gaited;" his stride, when at speed, is from 18 to 19 feet, and occasionally measures 20, and even more. His action at all rates of speed is absolutely faultless. There is not the slightest inclination to paddling, so observable in some of the trotting families, and which imparts so much the appearance of awkwardness, especially when jogging. The fore feet are thrown out directly in front, with a medium rising of the knee and an average bending of the same. His knee action I should place between that of Governor Sprague and Blackwood, Jr., he having rather more than the former and decidedly not as much as the latter. His motions when at speed are the extreme of vigorous, giving the appearance which causes all to remark the great display of muscular strength. Still, for all that, his motions are very quick, and give an idea of great rapidity, he does not seem to pound the ground with anything like the same force as that of Smuggler, or Blackwood, Jr., both of which horses punish the fore feet and legs by excessive action. Of course, from what I have said it is apparent there is no pointing. At all rates of speed, whether on the road or track, the fore feet are well raised from the ground, cleanly lifted, and as cleanly set down square. No wearing of the toe of the shoe, as is the case with those horses with a deficiency of knee action, many of which seem to dig with the toes at every step, particularly when going at a jog. Of hind action, it may be said there is a tendency when at speed both to very decided hock and stifle action. When merely going at customary road speed, say from 10 to 12 miles per hour, the stifle action is not so marked and the feet are not spread very wide apart, although always wide enough to go per-

fectedly clear. But exactly in proportion as the rate of speed increases does the stifle action become augmented, and the same is true of the hock action. As a whole, his action behind very much resembles Almont's, as also does, to a certain extent, his conformation in these parts. Probably the most frequent remark made, is that concerning the appearance of immense strength, vigor and stride, displayed in his action behind. The hind feet are lifted higher than the fore proportionately, and their stride seems longer. He goes absolutely clean and free from all need of weights, pads and boots. No matter whether on a half mile or mile track, and notwithstanding his great stride, such is the perfection of his action, so exact is it, that he has never rubbed a hair off or hit himself in any way; the same remarks apply to his full sister, Lady Stout.—We find, the secret of all this in the perfection of the physical conformation and the steady and thoroughly balanced nerve organization.

In the matter of breaking, he breaks like a grayhound, and gains every time, although he is, when in harness every day, exceedingly averse to making a break at all, taking the whip rather freely in preference. Said a well-known driver, after seeing him speeded, "He is the best breaker in the world." Taken in its completeness, his trotting motions resemble the action of machinery more nearly than anything I can think of for comparison; there is the same absolute regularity and absence of friction. I do not consider that he indulges in such flights of speed as some horses, which are nearly always followed by a break. His speed is, however, perfectly maintained from beginning to end, and if an increase is necessary it is made gradually rather than in spurts, it is continuous in contradistinction to sudden, although at times, when on the road in his exercise, he shows tremendous bursts of speed. He appears always to have something in reserve; can step out a little faster if called upon.

To sum up, then, his gait is essentially that of *trotting*. It is pure,

no pacing, or ambling, no hitching. Indeed, why should he when such an immense mass of muscle is in action behind as a propelling power? It is nothing more or less than the natural mechanical operation of a perfect apparatus under guidance and control of perfect nerve and will power.

In the attempt to describe the physical conformation of Black Cloud, I do not think of any particular horse in New England that is generally familiar, and which may be used for purposes of comparison. In the first place, it may be said, he is much heavier, compared to his hight, than most trotting bred stallions. Although not by any means a fat horse, yet he will tip the beam at 1095 pounds. Thus it will be observed that, although an inch less in hight than Taggart's Abdallah, he weighs nearly half a hundred weight more. He is for compactness unequaled, the last rib laying so near the hip bone that there is less than a hand's breadth between. So round and snug is the formation of the barrel that he does not show, in any way whatever, in looks, a long fast, nor does he look in the least shrunken after a hard drive.

In treating of special parts, beginning, as is customary, with the head, we see, first, a very straight profile, with the size decidedly less than medium as regards length. There is great breadth between the eyes, which are large and prominent, the expression indicating perfectly the kind and tractable disposition of the horse. There is also a much wider space between the eyes and ears than is usual, with a long interval between the setting of the ear and the eye. It may, I think, be fairly assumed that the much more than average capacity, which the size and the shape of his head are guaranty of, insures an unusual amount of brain substance. The ears are small and well carried. The jowl is strong and well spread, but not so much so as is seen in some of the descendants of Hambletonian. As a whole, his head attracts as much attention and elicits as much admiration as anything about him. The neck is precisely that of the

thoroughbred stallion proper, being of very fine length without a very decided crest, although very strong and muscular, and in perfect proportion and joined admirably with both head and shoulders. His neck resembles that of Blackwood, Jr., as nearly perhaps as any that can be mentioned. The mane and foretop are rather longer than the average, though somewhat thin, the hair being fine and very even as regards length. The shoulder is decidedly higher in the wither and more sloping than the average of the Abdallah bred horses. The blade is well detached, with plenty of room between the points which come down low in front, and in connection with the remarkably full and deep chest give the impression, as one stands in front, that the horse has very short front legs. The breast bone is more prominent and the chest larger and more projecting in front than that of any trotting horse I have ever seen. Taken with the really immense muscular development here and about the shoulders, many are inclined to pronounce him unduly heavy in the forehand, but the idea of disproportion is speedily obliterated, however, upon taking one's position so as to view the horse from behind, when the tremendous size of the quarters and width of stifle is manifest, showing that the proper proportions are no more than maintained. The barrel is particularly remarkable for the arched ribs and shortness in the upper part. As it approaches the loins its width greatly increases, although there is very great development of the muscles along the spine in its whole extent. While the hips are much wider from point to point than the average, the muscular formation is such as to cover and almost overlap the points in a lateral direction, and this extending over the loins in swelling masses constitutes a peculiar object of remark touching the great appearance of strength in this region. As before intimated, the quarters are unexcelled if strong construction be the desideratum. Equal to the loins and shoulders, in their heavy muscular adornment, they have great and perfect bony formation, giving the proper leverage

and muscular attachments indispensable for ease and smoothness in action. There is no great falling off or slope to the quarters behind, and the crupper bone comes out rather high, giving what the get of his sire inherit, almost without exception, a high and perfect carriage of the tail. Indeed, in the matter of style and high bred appearance, what adds more to looks than this feature? The tail is also of fine length, the hair being very even. In describing the limbs and feet I shall not give what just now is very fashionable, tape line dimensions, believing and knowing as I do how much variation and fallacy its use often expresses. The muscles and tissues of the limbs have that peculiar hardness and firmness to the touch which is a special characteristic of the entire structure. The great size of the muscles is here also as elsewhere; both the forearm and stifle, more especially the latter, both on its inside and outside aspect, having enormous development. The knees and hocks are models, the latter being decidedly straight, thus obviating any tendency to curbs, which is the bane of so many of the trotting families. Indeed, this freedom from all unsoundness of the legs and feet, which characterizes to so great an extent the get of Mambrino Patchen, is said to be the pride and boast of Dr. Herr. Beyond question it is this quality which has given them the capacity for early training and ability to stand hard preparation in later years.

It is, perhaps, below the knee where the superior excellence of Black Cloud's limbs becomes most manifest, the legs flat, clean and hard almost as steel, no big meaty look, with puffs and galls, but a display of bone and tendon never excelled in my observation. The pasterns belong to the upright variety, and partake largely of the thoroughbred pattern in other respects, being long and round. The feet are decidedly not flat, are very broad at the heel, the frog large and perfectly defined. The evidence of their perfect soundness is beyond question. Some of the conclusions I have arrived at I will endeavor to give in a summary as brief as may be.

What doubtless must have impressed others is the fact that most recent writers on breeding and kindred topics have almost totally ignored the question of beauty and style, preferring, it seems, rather to devote their energies to the one question of speed, seeming to forget that in doing thus they become mere panderers to sporting in its various phases. This same statement applies with almost equal force to breeders. To Black Cloud this application has no force. His beauty and grand and commanding appearance fits him to be the sire of the park horse as well as the trotter, he and other members of his family never failing to carry off the prizes, whenever shown, for looks and style.

Of his breeding it is useless to deny that the record shows the Mambrino blood is becoming the source whence by far the larger number of the younger trotters draw their qualities for speed, game and endurance. Are not a tremendous majority of the best of Almont's get from Mambrino mares? And Almont himself is out of a mare by Mambrino Chief. Only those who have investigated the subject comprehend how largely the Hambletonian family owe their success to being crossed on mares of Mambrino blood. But we cannot stop here, for we shall find that the male line of Mambrino Chief is even more potent yet. If we go to the record we find the two fastest stallions, next to Smuggler, to have been Mambrinos, viz: Hannis, record, 2.19 1-4, made his first season as a green horse. Mambrino Gift, hardly behind with his record of 2.20. It is perhaps needless to add that both of these sustain the relationship of first cousin to Black Cloud. Woodford Mambrino, the great sire of Woodburn, public trial 2.20 1-4, is brother to Black Cloud's sire. The four-year-old having the best record to date, is also cousin; the two-year-old with best record of heats previous to last season is sister to Black Cloud (is by Mambrino Patchen.) Lady Thorn, without doubt the fastest matured trotter the world has ever seen, practically bears the same relationship to Black Cloud as a parent, she being

a full sister to his sire. Lady Stout, the best young trotter, all things considered, and the fastest by the record in series of heats, and in third heat (2.28 in public trial, 3-year-old), is Black Cloud's full sister, that is, has the same dam and same sire. *Thus precisely the same elements making one that made the other.*

The list of close relationship might be vastly extended, both of horses noted on the turf and in the stud. I shall content myself with naming a few, mostly those originating or belonging in Kentucky. The list comprises those that have Mambrino blood on either sire's or dam's side, or both :

Alcalde,	Champion,
Administrator,	Doble,
Almont,	Eric,
Ashland Chief,	Ericsson,
Allie West,	Elmwood, by Mambrino Patchen,
Blackwood,	Forest King, by Mambrino Patchen
Belle Patchen (inbred to Mam- brino Patchen),	Keen Jim,
Brignoli (now Mambrino Prince),	Lida Bassett (inbred),
Blackwood, Jr.,	Nutwood,
Bob Didlake,	Nil Desperandum,
Bourbon Chief,	Proteine (inbred),
Belmont,	Thorndale,
Clark Chief,	Voltaire,
Coaster,	Woodford Chief,
	Caliban.

A host of others might be given, all perhaps of nearly or quite equal merit to those given, and all closely related to Black Cloud. I trust I have shown that he belongs to a trotting family. Quite likely the question will be asked, what classes of mares shall seek Black Cloud? My answer would be that I believe him the best in New England, (and perhaps the locality might be enlarged), to breed

to common mares. By these, I mean those of no particular breeding or known pedigree. My reasons are, briefly, that he possesses the large amount of thoroughbred blood necessary and indispensable to overpower the coarse elements of the dams, and to insure bloodlike quality in the foal. The question of beauty ought also to be entertained in this connection. Regarding special cases he should be an admirable cross for Hambletonian mares, his medium size and compact muscular formation, together with his entire freedom from coarseness, supplying the very deficiencies which in too many cases are their birthright. The Clay and Godfrey's Patchen mares should receive the same application. To the Morgans generally, and to the Lamberts and Taggart's Abdallah mares in particular, he will, I believe, furnish elements in gait necessary to make the produce the most valuable trotting and driving horses in the world. His powerful stride and knee action, his tremendous stifle and propelling power behind, combined as it is with the perfect and wonderful regularity of his motions, with his game staying qualities, will give the produce as high a degree of average perfection as we can hope to attain.

LADY THORN, MAMBRINO PATCHEN

—AND—

LADY STOUT

BY L. HERR.

INTRODUCTORY.

Going back to the great grandam of Lady Thorn and Mambrino Patchen, we find that she was a bay, $15\frac{1}{2}$ hands high, of fine style, and showing great quality and blood in every part. She was, moreover, entirely sound, without blemish, and lived to a very great age, besides being a natural pacer. Mr. Levi Rodes, whose father owned her, says he never knew her to depart from the pace. She would lead the horses in their playful frolics in the pasture, she pacing and the others running. She produced the Sir William mare, the grandam of Lady Thorn and Mambrino Patchen.

Lady Thorn's Grandam :—This was a sorrel mare, with a blaze face and four white legs; was $15\frac{1}{2}$ hands high, and also like her dam, a natural pacer. She was used by the father of Mr. Levi Rodes as a first-class and sure-footed saddle mare; perfect, sound and long-lived. She looked like a thoroughbred, and was sired by a son of Sir William. The foregoing is all that Mr. Rodes can remember of what his father said about the breeding of this mare. Mr. Rodes' father has been dead many years. She produced the dam of Lady Thorn, and Mambrino Patchen; also a chestnut mare by Post Boy.

DAM OF LADY THORN, AND PRODUCE OF SAID DAM.

Raised and bred by William Rodes, of Fayette county, Ky. As already stated, Mr. Rodes has been dead a number of years. The mare to which attention is now directed, was a blood-bay, $15\frac{1}{2}$ hands high, with all the best characteristics of the thoroughbred about her, showing high quality at all points. Her legs and feet were like polished steel, she was beautifully proportioned and balanced in her form—no mixture of good and bad, large and small points, but as stated, any one part admirably answering to the correlated part throughout. Eyes, large and perfect; carriage, elegant, with extra tail. Her regular trot seemed as though it could not be improved, so extraordinarily regular and machinelike were the movements. Stride, elastic, level, open; and her bottom of the best.

Her first:—Her first foal was a bay filly, which developed into a good natural stepper, but never trained. This, at maturity, was $15\frac{1}{2}$ hands. By Todhunter's Sir Wallace—a common horse.

Second:—A black horse, $16\frac{1}{2}$ hands high, by Downing's Vermont. Employed exclusively as a family rockaway horse, and without any regular training could trot in 3.20. Very valuable, because known to have all the reliable and safe qualities.

Third:—Also by Downing's Vermont. Black, 16 hands high, entirely gentle and kind, fitted for "all use," and the fall he was 3 years old could trot in 3 minutes.

Fourth:—We have now reached LADY THORN, to which I shall refer somewhat fully further along.

Fifth:—A bay filly by imported Consternation. Never trained. Purchased by Mr. Charles S. Dole, Crystal Lake, Illinois.

Sixth:—This was by Cassius M. Clay, jr. A blood-bay filly, of fine quality and style, and could trot in 2:40.

Seventh:—Kentucky Clay, also by Cassius M. Clay, jr. Kentucky

Clay was a blood-bay, 16 hands high, with three white feet and a star. Could trot in 2:50, and but for a mishap when a yearling, I think would have trotted fast.

Eighth:—We have now reached MAMBRINO PATCHEN, whose history like that of LADY THORN, will be given further on.

After the old mare produced MAMBRINO PATCHEN, I sold her to Mr. Charles S. Dole. Mr. Dole had the misfortune to lose both the mare and colt, which was by Mambrino Pilot, in foaling.

I may here state that for breeding the dam of MAMBRINO PATCHEN to old MAMBRINO CHIEF, I paid my money and possess the proper receipt; and besides, the books show that my claim in this matter is perfectly just, as the following, which is an exact copy taken from them will demonstrate:—

1861, May the 21st. Dr. L. Herr's bay mare bred to MAMBRINO CHIEF. Bred again on the 25th. Next service, June the 2nd. Bred again June 19th, June 20th, June 21st.

The reason the owners of MAMBRINO CHIEF let him serve her so often before going out of season, was that they were as much or even more interested than myself in the result, and hence they were doing everything in their power to make sure of getting her in foal. They did no more and no less than any one else would have done under the circumstances. They thought, and very properly, that six chances were better than one, and so they took the six chances. Mr. Willis Jones, one of the owners, came to me at two different times soliciting me to breed THORN'S DAM, fearing that they might miss getting her, which I expect they did not want to do, for the very simple reason that she had already produced LADY THORN.

HISTORY AND BREEDING OF LADY THORN.

Mr. Levi T. Rodes, who, in 1855 and previously, owned the dam of LADY THORN, bred her to Mambrino Chief, and the produce in

1856 was LADY THORN. After she was a year old past, Mr. Levi T. Rodes broke her to sulky, and this gentleman informs me that she was naturally kind, and showed no disposition to kick or be vicious in any way. When she was 2 years old, Mr. Rodes sold her to Mr. Henry Dunlap—price \$300—and two boxes of plantation cigars. For the benefit of readers at a distance, it may be stated that both the parties to this transaction were of Fayette County, Ky. Mr. Dunlap drove her single and double the summer and fall she was two years old; and did so with and without blinds, at all hours of the night. Mr. Dunlap was fond of playing billiards, and although I was not keeping a public stable at the time, he insisted on putting up his driving horses with me, my place being convenient to where he used to amuse himself, and from which it was not unusual for him to start for home as late as 12 or 1 o'clock in the night—he driving the LADY on those occasions. I mention this to show that previous to the mishap, due to an accident, she was entirely kind to all harness. Late in that same fall I had her under treatment for distemper, and after she recovered and gained her natural strength and spirits, Dunlap borrowed a road sulky from me, and to it drove her for exercise the first time after recovering. I cautioned him regarding the risk he was taking in driving her on so cold a day, she feeling as playful as she did—but nothing short of driving her would satisfy him. Whilst being driven, under the harness she wore a heavy blanket, which came down below her knees and hocks, as was then fashionable. He drove her out on the Harrodsburg pike $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and in turning to come back a gale of wind struck the long blanket, and, as already intimated, as she was in a playful mood, besides feeling cold, she made a lunge and kick, and the result was she hung her left hind leg over the cross bar and got thrown; and as there was no one to assist, there was considerable rolling and tumbling about on the pike before she could be extricated from the sulky. And thus in the imprudent and careless way described, she was frightened, and

it took me a good while to get her over it ; but it should be remembered that she never ran nor got loose from a vehicle. In the winter coming three years old, I bought one half interest in her, and afterwards, Mr. Dunlap, having trouble about money matters, sold me his remaining interest—this is to be payable when I sold her. At three years old she trotted and received forfeits, some particulars respecting which I will give below—and it became evident that she could trot fast. At four years old she lost her speed, and could not beat 3:17. any way we could trot her. And yet she looked well, fed well, and was the picture of health, doing, in short, admirably in every particular, except that she could not send hersclf along the ground to make time. I bred her this season to Cassius M. Clay, jr., giving her one leap, and concluded that if she stood I would have every reason to expect something good, and that if she did not stand the first time, as it was getting late in the season, I would not breed her again. She was not in foal. The spring she was five years old her speed came to her again, and she could just about fly, and continued to do well every season until I sold her, which I did when she was seven years old. During the most dangerous time of the war, I sent Lady Thorn and Mambrino Pilot to Ohio for safety. Mr. Dunlap and I bought Lady Thorn's dam in partnership, and afterwards I bought his interest. Lady Thorn was a blood-bay, $16\frac{1}{4}$ hands high. She lost her eye by accident—an external injury. Her name, while owned by me and until she left Kentucky, was "Maid of Ashland."

I shall now briefly enumerate Lady Thorn's trotting performances before she left Kentucky. The summer she was 3 years old, she was matched in three races. She received forfeit from two of these, and trotted the other against Capt. Thomas Steele's Snow Storm, three in five, which was won by Thorn in three straight heats, it not being necessary for her to display even an exercising gait, and not seeking to make time, was pulled all the way. In the fall she was trotted

in the Lexington Stake. Kentucky Chief, the Stanhope mare, Ericsson, and Lady Thorn started. Ericsson and the Stanhope mare were distanced in the first heat. Lady Thorn, under the disadvantages of extra weight, a heavy road sulky, kicking and breaking harness, was second. She lapped on Kentucky Chief's wheel, and but for a mishap in the second heat, would have won it and the race. She trotted under the drawbacks named, in about 2:52. At the Louisville Fall Meeting I entered her in the three-year old race, against Kentucky Chief and others, all of which I had good reason to believe she could beat. In the race, after trotting in the lead, her bit broke, and having a nose band on her bridle, she was gradually taken up without any demonstrations of kicking or ill temper, and of course walked home and was distanced. In 1863, at the Spring Meeting, Louisville, Ky., I entered Thorn in a 3 in 5 race, free for all. Belle of Indiana and Thorn trotted for the purse, Thorn winning at her ease in three straight heats. The next day I entered her in the two-mile heat race, with Indiana Belle, Mountain Jack, and others. And Thorn won without ever being extended in any part of the race. My object was to drive her behind, in front and in the crowd occasionally; and then letting her work through the horses to the front, so as to test her in a crowd, etc. After which I sold her to C. P. Relf, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

MAMBRINO PATCHEN.

Mambrino Patchen was foaled in the spring of 1862, in my stable lot in Lexington, Ky., I being in the lot at the time. My faithful old negro, Elijah, even at this distant day, feels proud to tell that he was the first one who ever saw Mambrino Patchen. I always make it a rule to make some one sit up at night with valuable mares to watch their foaling, and old Elijah being reliable and experienced, was the one selected to take charge of such cases. It was my custom to promise him a present providing he saw a mare foaling, and let

me know before she got through, and this he invariably did. At a yearling I sold Mambrino Patchen for \$1,500, which was a big price to me, under the then existing circumstances, and more than any other trotting colt of that age had ever sold for in this country. The purchaser was Mr. John K. Alexander, of Illinois. As soon as I closed the sale of Mambrino Pilot with C. P. Relf, of Morristown, Pennsylvania, I immediately took the cars resolved to buy back at any cost Mambrino Patchen, and this I succeeded in doing, he being at the time two years old. When he was three years old I allowed him to serve a few mares. It was then war times, and the mares were scattered and some lost sight of, so that as regards number of colts, his first season did not appear to be much in his favor. Still, a few of the mares foaled in the vicinity, the balance being as stated, scattered during the war, etc. The price of service, during the first season, was twenty-five dollars to insure. I have kept him for service in the stud from then until the present time, raising the price in proportion to the extent to which his colts have shown speed and quality. He is, and has been, for three years, standing at two hundred dollars to insure. At three years old I broke and gentled him to harness, and have aimed to drive him seven or eight times every fall since, merely to let him know that he was broke, etc. Last fall, after an interval of nearly three years, in which he was not harnessed, I hitched him up and drove him about seven times, the third time, still fat and untrained, my son held the first watch on him for $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile, which he jogged in 40 seconds. My candid opinion is that had he been kept and trained for the turf, no horse living would be able to excell him for speed and bottom. Mambrino Patchen is black, with leg silvered from hock to hoof. Is 16 hands high, square measure; has the name, which, in my opinion, he deserves, of being the finest of, and showing more quality than any other of the old horse's get. He is entirely sound; free from all blemishes and defects. He has taken but one dose of medicine in

his life, and that was not given him for disease or sickness, but for the purpose of reducing him, he having become too fat. And, moreover, he is not predisposed to any disease, as might readily be inferred, from the fact as stated that he has never been sick to indicate any such predisposition. In disposition he is perfect; he drives on his courage, not requiring either whip or cluck, and never comes back until pulled back. He is, in short, as untiring and as hard to discourage as any horse, and what is still more remarkable, he imparts to his offspring all the desirable qualities by which he is characterized—extra style, size, high finish, fine temper, and extra speed.

The following list, which is only a very partial one, will show that Membrino Patchen has the best showing as a breeder of trotters of any horse of his age:—LADY STOUT, MAMBRINO LANCE, ROTHSCHILD, MAMBRINO BERTIE, MAMBRINO KATE, MAMBRINO THORN, MAMBRINO KING, MAMBRINO ABDALLAH, FOREST KING, GIRL, E. QUEEN, MAMBRINO JOE, MAMBRINO BILLY, TREASURE BOY, MAMBRINO BOY, KATE PATCHEN, ANDERSON FILLY, HAIL-STORM, CHARLEY HERR, DARLBAY, GRAY QUEEN, MAMBRINO QUEEN, MILLER COLT, THE HURST FILLY. This last trotted 1-2 mile, led, at the rate of 3:40, while sucking her dam. Lady Stout's full sister, on the same occasion, showed nearly as much speed. It is hardly necessary to state that Lady Stout's record as a three-year old, in a third heat, in the race which she trotted last Fall at Lexington, is a long way better than anything done before by an animal of her age—in fact it gives a year and a beating to all four-year olds, the time being 2:29. And in her trial race one day only intervening between it and the race just alluded to, she made the following record:—2:30 1-4; 2:28 3-4; and third heat 2:28. Had I not been persuaded against my wish and judgment, not to trot her a fourth heat, she would undoubtedly have trotted it in 2:25, or better; and not only that, but could have gone on and made two miles inside of five minutes.

LADY STOUT.

HER HISTORY AND PERFORMANCES.

She was foaled in the spring of 1871, and it is hardly necessary to observe, was by Mambrino Patchen, out of Puss Prall, by Mark Time, by Berthune. Lady Stout is a sorrel, with white on three of her feet, and gray hairs very thickly and regularly interspersed throughout every part of her coat, not omitting even her face or any part of her limbs. The first of December, 1874, her hight was plump 15 hands, square measure. At this time she was four years old. I often examined her to see if I could tell from whence came her extraordinary capacity, but have never yet been able to see any unusual development, excepting only in her face and head. Between her eyes and ears she is very large in proportion to her size, and if room is required for brain, she certainly has more than her share of it. Her eyes are perfect in all respects, and her face very expressive. Her disposition is of the most amiable description, and she is tractable in the extreme. She is, on the other hand, timid in a crowd, or in strange places. I attribute her wonderful speed and endurance to an evenness and correspondence of parts throughout. The proportions are everywhere beautifully maintained, and, if I may [say] so, the entire mechanism acted upon by the very best type of brain capacity. Her hind legs are straight; her tail rather light, as in the case of her dam. Her feet and limbs of the best, and she never has any occasion to wear boots, weights, or pads, although, to avoid all possibility of accident, I generally, in speeding her, have used a shin pad inside her hind leg. But as is well known to those acquainted with her, and as stated, so perfect is her action, that she has never touched herself anywhere. She was never sick or lame in her life. The first time I saw LADY STOUT, was at Mr. John Stout's, when she was two or three days old. I need hardly say that the LADY was bred by Mr. John Stout. After looking around her, Mr. Stout

raised some objections, and, amongst others, remarked that he thought she was rather short; to which I replied, that she did seem short to look at, but that she was long enough for me at \$300 cash. This offer he refused. She prospered from then till the spring when she was a yearling. On May 10th, 1872, I took charge of her to break her to harness; and after doing this, and training her very lightly, she remained in my possession until October 23rd. Before going back to her home, in Woodford county, she trotted at my colt show, took the premium for fillies, trotting the first mile in 3:05, and the second mile of the two heats in 3:02. The track is always slow, but a misty rain made it on that occasion so unusually heavy that the sulky wheels did not clean, and the bottoms of the filly's feet were filled with mud. On a good track, and under favorable circumstances, she could at that time have trotted a mile in 3 minutes or under, and the two mile heat in 6 minutes or less. While not in training she was turned out in paddock, with access to grass, as well as to a comfortable bedded box stall. On April 23rd, 1873, she was again put in my charge and possession, after which she did not leave any more until purchased by Mr. Robert Bonner, when I delivered her on the cars, December 22nd, 1874. She was in my possession in all, about two years, and during the whole of that period was never once unwell. The season of 1873, she was trained lightly—what I would call about half training—spent the most of her time in her paddock; and when in training was invariably driven by myself, I not allowing any one even to do so much as pull the reins on her, for fear that any damage might accrue to her perfect mouth and disposition. The fall of 1873, she being then two years old past, the evening before my colt show, she trotted four heats, with this result:—first and preparatory heat in 2:44; second heat 2:39; third heat 2:40 1-4; fourth heat 2:38 1-2. Nowhere did she show distress, or indications of tiring in the least. On the day following the wonderful performance just recorded, she trotted three heats, the slowest of

which was 2:41 $\frac{1}{2}$. In her public performance at the Agricultural Fair for yearlings, she was second in the race, the first place being won by the Steele filly, sired by Blackwood. She on this occasion showed a good deal of timidity, paying no attention to her gait, winnowing and looking about, and yet she showed more speed in places than anything in the race, and did so more particularly towards the finish. There were four starters—the Steele filly first, LADY STOUT second, Hailstorm third, the other distanced.

Her next public performance was in the year-old sweepstake over the Lexington Association Course—TROTTING MEETING—at which time three started, namely:—LADY STOUT, Hailstorm, and the Almont colt, which last was distanced. LADY STOUT was first and Hailstorm second—time, 3:13 for LADY STOUT and 3:15 for Hailstorm. This eclipsed any yearling time ever made up to that date.

Her third public performance was in the two-year old stake at Lexington, Ky. There were three starters—LADY STOUT, and the Ewalt filly, both by Patchen; and the Patterson colt, by Balsora. The Stout filly won the race. Promising not to distance the others, I could not let her go faster without doing so. The Ewalt filly took the second, and Balsora the third place. In this race for two-year-olds she most assuredly could have trotted below 2:40, every heat. Real time 2:48.

Her fourth public performance was in the three-year-old stake, Lexington, Kentucky Association, which she won in four heats, and in which, but for a collision, would have been won in three, without the loss of a single heat. As it was, Blackwood, jr., received the first heat, time 2:36 $\frac{1}{2}$ —in which, after being run into and sulky broken, I aimed only to save my distance. Lady Stout's heats were 2:30 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2:29, 2:32 $\frac{1}{2}$ —the last heat I could have made faster.

After an interval of a day, she trotted on trial over same track, and timed by the Official Judges, in 2:30 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2:28 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2.28—and this with-

out being taken out of the harness or sulky until the finish. My calculation was to trot her four heats, making every heat better until the fourth, in which I intended to call on her for an extra effort, causing her to trot in 2:25 or better; but, contrary to my usual custom—when I think I am right—I allowed my friends to persuade me not to trot her a fourth heat. I also calculated to post the judges to take the time of the fourth mile, and then continue and finish the second mile, making a two mile heat, which I say I know she could have closed inside of five minutes, without distress. I will die, regretting that I did not, in this particular instance, act according to my own calculation, and trot her the fourth heat, knowing that the three-year-old time now upon record is not where it truly belongs—is not where she had the capacity to put it.

THE MANAGEMENT OF TROTTERS.

Being frequently applied to for instruction on the care and treatment of the trotter, I will here, through the columns of the FARMERS' HOME JOURNAL, offer a few suggestions for the benefit of those who have applied for such information, and who live at a distance. In this way I may be enabled to shorten very considerably my correspondence by letter. Also, I would here remark, that I cannot hope to benefit those who have already graduated, so to speak, in the science. I write only for the new beginners, of which there are now many, and also the new additions constantly being made—in a word, I write for those who are willing to give a respectful consideration to the views of older or more experienced men. Furthermore, I will not now develop a regular system of training the trotter—that matter will be dealt with another time.

I have often regretted that rules which would apply to all cases cannot be given. Could they, all horses might be trained so that I

could more satisfactorily and briefly make the proper responses on this occasion. It being necessary to be governed by circumstances and changes as they occur, such rules as I may give will require to be modified in their application to suit all the cases that arise demanding attention, and even the same horses may not on two occasions require the same treatment—the training, like everything else, will have to be dealt with taking full account of every bearing of the entire problem.

THE WHIP.

In this there are the conditions of great harm as well as great good. Many trainers ought never be allowed to get into a sulky in possession of a whip. They are so constituted that they cannot control their temper, and they often whip when there is no better reason for it than the gratification which the doing so yields their ill-nature. One single cut with the whip at the wrong time will not be forgotten by some horses during a whole season, and may cause the horse to become timid and irritable—may, in fact, ultimately ruin him, causing him to prove unreliable, both as regards gait and everything else considered as exceptionally valuable. Show me a man that whips, jerks, and scolds his horse for breaking or not behaving to suit him, and I will show you a stable of bad breakers, of horses unreliable in races, terrified to do their best for fear of a misstep or any other error. Under such treatment, horses soon acquire a dread of punishment, and their attention is taken from their gait to the whip. Some high-tempered horses break unintentionally and almost unavoidably. They are so quick and ready that when touched with the whip or harshly spoken to, they try to increase their rate of speed too suddenly, and thus lose their balance, or step, and get confused both in feet and head. Occasionally there are cases where you have a perfect drone, or type of laziness—one that will keep “coming” back, and will watch for opportunities to do so. In such a case, it is necessary to whip. On such slugs, to be

effectual, it must be administered quick and strong—must be administered after a fashion which would ruin beyond redemption a horse of a different temper. It can be counted on to a certainty that the more a horse is punished and abused for breaking, the oftener he will break, and the longer will he be in regaining his trot. There is a great difference between lightly tapping a high-strung trotter and cutting him all-to-pieces every time he does not perform as well as his driver desires. Often in this matter the driver is too impatient, not giving his horse time to learn, and so in the way indicated, he undertakes to force. Among the many different subjects on which good, sound judgment is required, not one is more important than that relating to this matter of the whip. I do not hesitate to say that not one in a hundred should be struck with the whip because of a break, or immediately after the horse has recovered his gait. Horses behave according to their feelings and condition. If over-worked and muscle bound, and honest and good-tempered by nature, they will do their best to trot though they cannot, and failing to do so and still pressed by their unreasonable driver, they give up, break and “go to pieces.” Long before this happens, as far as it is possible for a horse to do it, the driver has received sufficient intimation that the animal is out of condition. But the warning has come too late, for the driver himself has now lost his reason; his temper is up to the highest notch; he is not in a condition to comprehend the horse’s meaning, and so he goes in for a fight, employing all the force at his command. He whips, he jerks, he curses, and all without producing the desired effect. The unreasonable and cruel driver is beaten; the horse is finally sent to the stable, injured and exhausted; discouraged and disgusted with the driver and the track. He has received a lesson of abuse he won’t soon forget. Some men can drive one, two, or three horses in a stable as well as they can be driven by any driver, being good, steady, plain horses, whilst they would be completely lost if required to

drive the remainder. There are other men specially gifted for the business by nature, possessed of the tact, the qualities of head and hand, which enable them to change and adapt themselves to any and all kinds of horses. These are the men who go to the head of their profession, and they are about as rare as first rate trotters. Men as well as horses are often misplaced, and a man might drive for fifty years and be very little better than he was at the start. Many horses could trot if they would, and many would trot if they could; and here again horses, like men, must feel well before they can perform well, for, as one flesh and blood, the same physical allowances should be made for them as for their drivers, who cannot perform a feat every day. It is surely not necessary to say that the driver not unfrequently gets into his sulky complaining, feeling sore and bad, and burthened with some of the many ills to which human flesh is heir. Some horses, like some men, are regular, and enjoy uniform good health during the greater part of their lives, but this is the exception. Our object is to comprehend the rule and make provisions in accordance therewith.

WEIGHTS.

In my judgment and experience, these should never be used, if it is possible to dispense with them. It is true, that there are cases where, for a time, they are really essential; and on some horses we can make no rapid progress or changes without them; but they are always employed at the risk of the tendons and synovial sac, the injuries to which appear in the form of windgalls or thickening of the tendons. And the more weight carried the greater the risk in this particular direction. The foot and what weight is added by the employment of any artificial appliance whatever, must be caught and stopped by the tendon. From this the truth of the remarks already made regarding the injurious effects likely to result from the employment of weights, will be all the more apparent, and

therefore, for these and other reasons, we repeat, dispense with weights as soon as the case will admit of it. Use them only in speeding and never in jogging.

Then, again, we would add further, that weights may be employed with great advantage on some horses for the purpose of rectifying defective action, or of removing acquired habits of faulty action. Weights can be employed to good purpose on horses which are changing from a pace to a trot, and, indeed, at such a time considerable weight is needed. Also horses that are loose or broken gaited, not trotting "square," as well as horses that "point" or dwell on their front action, will all derive benefit from weights. Where only a very moderate amount of additional weight is desirable, it can be added in the shoe, and in this way it will be carried more conveniently and with less risk. To this plan there is but one objection—the extra weight is carried constantly in jogging as well as in speeding, which is tiresome to the tendons, whilst in the other plan the weight can readily be added when needed.

CLOTHING.

For pleasing the fancy and ornamenting a stall, clothing may be well enough, but for putting speed and bottom in a trotter, if not used with judgment, it had better remain in the stall for show, where it will do no harm. Some trainers think if they don't make a great display of fine blankets, visitors will imagine they don't know much, or are not up to the times, and consequently in this way they go to a great expense, and, as indicated, do damage into the bargain. Twenty-five years ago, I took pride in clothing and considered it beneficial, but for the last twenty years I have been convinced that the view I then took was an erroneous one, and so have used none, either in winter or summer, except for cooling out my horses. This finished, the blankets are hung up in their places inside the stable. Whilst, as experience teaches us, it would be injurious to train a

young trotter all the time, and beneficial to train him some, so it is in the use of clothing. It would be detrimental and taking the risk of changes, to use them constantly; whilst on the other hand, and at certain times, it would be indispensable. After driving a horse freely in cold weather until the pores open, and perspiration is established, upon stopping him suddenly it would be absolutely necessary to protect him in the usual manner. Nay more, it would be downright cruelty to neglect to do so. But when carefully and effectually cooled the covering should all be removed. A man can talk to me all day, and unless he gives me some proof of the correctness of his remarks, which will satisfy me that he is reasoning as a sensible man should reason, I need not, and indeed I am not likely to attach much importance to what he may say on any subject. Horses wearing no clothing are not exposed to sudden changes, as are those wearing heavy woolen blankets. The reason for this must be apparent to every one. For instance, your horse is covered all night. In the morning he is stripped for grooming, and is exposed long enough to make him feel the effects of the change from heavy clothing to none at all. Also in harnessing, off must come the clothing, and in many cases, from the time the horse is stripped to be groomed, harnessed, and led to door, and the proprietor ready to put him to exercise, an hour or more has passed, during which time the horse is exposed to wind and cold. All these are sudden changes to which the horse that wears no blanket is not exposed. I repeat, in Summer, horses in training would not only be better off after the manner and for the reasons stated; but would also be much more comfortable without the heavy blankets, and baking process indulged in by many trainers than with them. The horse delights to have the pure, bracing, invigorating air circulating over every part of his body. As a matter of course, in "fly-time" I don't object to light linen sheets and dusters, but that is the extent to which I would consent to the use of clothing, and I do not deny

that heavy clothing is conducive to a close, smooth coat, and adds to the appearance of an animal, but the health and the speed are entirely different matters. Horses wearing heavy clothing look better as a rule than horses handled without any such coddling; but the appearance is counterfeit, and the performing condition not as good as it would be under the arrangement which I advocate. Turning to the facts in the case, I find that during thirty years of close observation and extensive practice in the best—in my own and other—stables, all ranking amongst the first establishments of their kind in Kentucky, and comprehending both runners and trotters, I have found more horses sick and out of condition in stables where heavy clothing was used, than where none was employed except for cooling out. The truth is, facts and theories are different things.

BITS AND BRIDLES.

There being by nature such a wide difference in the mouths and dispositions of horses—no two, in short, being exactly alike—here, as elsewhere, judgment will be required to determine which is best for each horse or colt. What may suit or be best for one, may be bad for a different mouth or temper. The plain snaffle or bar will answer for more cases than any other pattern. Of this there are a great many forms, from which a selection may be made, suited to each particular case. Tender mouths, hard mouths, side pullers, luggers, and other natural and acquired habits, have all to be provided for, and changed or improved as is required. It is important and may prove advantageous to make changes in some cases. A horse may drive well in a bit for some time, and after getting used to it may have a tendency to some objectionable habit which a change of bit will often remedy. In this way the horse will become accustomed to the last bit and driver, and again revert to the habit of acting unpleasantly, when by returning to the first bit the difficulty may be removed for a time at least. Some horses are so perfect

in their mouths and tempers as never to require any change—such will drive to one bit, and this the plain snaffle, all their lives. Bad or heavy hands, accompanied by ungovernable tempers, ruin many a mouth, and let me here parenthetically add that there is more difference in the hands of drivers than can be explained. With bad hands and no natural tact or gift for the business, to say nothing of ungovernable temper, or the crazed condition to which drivers are often reduced by whiskey, a man might drive a hundred years and be indifferent at last. Some men may have a taste or fancy—call it what you will—for the horse business, and yet be without a natural talent for handling horses, without which a man must continue a common man, so to speak, however much practice he may have.

BLINDERS OR WINKERS.

While some horses drive better and more regularly with blinders there are others that drive as well or better without them—those of good game and courage when harnessed without blinds, can see their competitors coming up to them in the race, and are thereby stimulated to extra exertion to maintain the lead. Many horses though able to see everything are yet more reliable and steady, than when they have on blinds, and can see only in front of them. Such, under the influence of rattling of sulkies and horse's feet and slashing of whips coming up behind, which of course they cannot see with blinders, become excited, the attention is drawn from the gait, and the end is breaking or some other form of bad behaviour. A slug or lazy drone, possessed of any degree of life might be benefited by such rallying excitement. A horse to behave well, without blinders, requires just a certain kind of temper which will prevent him from turning "crazy" when other horses come up to, or are passing him, but still has courage enough to do or die honestly under the excitement. For road driving I prefer blinds for several reasons. I think that with blinds on, a horse is "rigged" and has the appearance

more of harness style. Without them the "rig" has an unfinished aspect and more the appearance of saddle style. The next reason for preferring blinds is that in driving a lazy horse he can't see the person or persons behind him, and cannot therefore know what his driver is doing, or at what moment he may get a cut with a whip, or how often it is going to be repeated. Without blinds a horse can see every movement of his driver, and if he receives a reminder, he "moves up," but as soon as the whip is replaced in the socket, and seeing no present indication of a renewal of the punishment, "back" he comes, which makes the driving irregular, and compels the driver to "work his passage" in keeping his horse up to the rate.

SOME OTHER POINTS.

When horses become accustomed to anything, they gradually acquire a fixed habit in relation to that thing, and it is no easy matter to change that habit.

Inexperienced men too often pass their opinion as to the qualifications of drivers, and these opinions not unfrequently do great injustice to the persons to whom they more particularly relate. In order to give a just opinion of a driver, a great many considerations have to be taken into account. A trainer might speed, for visitors, one or more of his most honest, even-tempered, and reliable horses, so that the conclusion would be that the individual understood his business. But suppose the same individual, instead of doing as he did, had brought out a like number of his high strung "crazy" ones, and went through with his whole stable: after seeing the unreliable ones fretting, "dancing hornpipes," and breaking, with the same driver, the inexperienced ones would pass sentence on the trainer, and say that he had no control or command over his horses. Men who have not been engaged in this business, and especially if lacking common sense and experience, are not generally to be relied upon when they attempt to decide who is a good and who an indiffer-

ent handler of trotters, and yet, notwithstanding all this, they are the first and most ready to give their opinions. Good horses often give reputation to drivers and trainers. And then again, men not practical, just as in the matter of training, very readily express their views regarding the condition of horses. With unbounded confidence in themselves, and guided by external appearance—a guide so unsafe that even aged and experienced men have been misled by it—the result is utter confusion both as regards runners and trotters. For example, I have known some of the most successful men—men justly considered at the head of their profession—in training runners and trotters very much mistaken in the condition even of their own horses. Then surely no one can wonder at the statement that impractical men are seldom right in things of this sort. There are many old horsemen here and elsewhere, who in looking back thirty years, can remember some of the best and most truthful men—men ever true to their friends—who would report dissatisfaction with the condition of their horses, and so prevent those whose interests they were desirous of guarding, from betting on the race, and unexpectedly the horse would run a wonderful race. In other cases, with the same men, I have known horses reported as in just the right condition to run a terrible race; friends under such conditions advised to bet, with the disastrous result of the horse being left behind the flag. Judging condition is like judging the trotter—we can all tell better after trying him, no matter how smart we may consider ourselves or how competent to pick him out as he stands in the stall. It is a very hazardous business, attempting to decide how a race will end before it is over. The fact is, the more a man learns from experience, the less positive will he be about anything of which there is the least doubt. As Woodruff tells us in his *Trotting Book of America*—“If I had had less to do with horses in the past forty years, I might be more positive in my assertions than I now intend to be.”

Hiram learned and saw enough to know the uncertainty associated with inexperience, and the importance of experience. While in his youth he would have spoken positively, yet he would now speak upon the same subject as if there might be room for a doubt, and he would not so readily risk his opinion. After a man trains a horse one season, he will have an idea as to the proper course to be pursued in the future. And in fact, a man must train a horse, no matter whether a trotter or runner, one season before he can tell exactly how to manage him to the best advantage next season. Horses more frequently get too much than too little work, because men generally are impatient, and the better the horse the more apt are they to give him too much. They erroneously suppose that the more they train the horse the faster they will get speed, and the sooner they will have a trotter. The reverse is the fact. Probably it is not generally known that speed can be taken from, as well as given to, horses. It would be easy to cite many examples in support of this position.

When a horse begins to learn a bad habit, and is of a self-willed disposition, so that he will fight to continue in his error, fully aware that he is opposing your wishes, insisting on not doing what he could do without pain, he must be met with punishment and overpowered, and never given up until taught and convinced that resistance is useless, and that instead of having his own way, that of the driver must be complied with; once beaten, and effectually convinced, the trouble is over. It is very essential in handling colts to guard from the very first against their acquiring a knowledge of bad habits, for confirmed bad habits in colts must be dealt with in precisely the same manner as in the case of mature animals. It will be remembered by the reader, that at the beginning, I stated no two horses are alike in every way, so that what is essential in some instances should be

dispensed with in others. This matter of severe punishment, occasionally, is a case in point.

Men are born to differ, so that no two see everything in the same way. I therefore don't expect all the views expressed to meet with the unqualified approbation of all those who may peruse them. To do full justice to the subjects, at which I have only been able to glance in a general way, would require more space and time than I could spare.

[From the Spirit of the Times, Jan. 1, 1876.]

MY EXPERIENCE WITH TROTTERS.

BY DAN MACE.

EDITED BY J. H. SANDERS.

CHAPTER I.

Lady Thorn, the Greatest of Trotters—Her Purchase by Dan Mace—Her Wonderful Speed—Her Breeding and Turf Career—Mace's Plans Frustrated—The Greatest of Trotters Disabled for Life.

I do not think it proper to begin these sketches without some allusion to the greatest trotter that the world has ever produced; I mean the great old Thorn, of course. Although she was in my hands but a short time, and my individual experience with her was confined to a very few months training, and to barely three races, yet I feel that she deserves and must have the post of honor in these sketches. For years she was the acknowledged Queen of the Turf, and in all of her races with the Goldsmith mare, the latter never succeeded in beating her in a single heat.

I bought her in the spring of 1870 from J. D. McMann and A. Welch. I had watched her career closely, and I became satisfied that she was the best moneyed mare in the country. I knew at the time of making the purchase that she had a leg that troubled her at times, but I did not feel much afraid of it. I was satisfied that she possessed more speed than any other trotter in the world, and so I thought that she could come pretty near going fast enough on three legs to beat any of them. There is no doubt but that the mare possessed great powers of endurance, but, as a matter of fact, I do not

think that her powers in this respect were ever tested. She had so much speed that it was no trouble for her to trot in a race with the best of them, and the fastest that she ever showed in a race was only play for her. It is no trouble for a horse that can trot below 2:20, to last out a race of six or seven heats when the best time is not lower than 2:27, for such a gait is no trial upon the endurance of a 2:20 horse, if he is driven with judgment. But the plan that shows you whether a horse is a stayer or not, is a race of four or five heats, right down to the very best of his speed. If a horse can live through such a race, and come out fresh and ready to go again, you may call that horse a stayer whether he trots in 2:17 or 2:37. But the Old Lady never had any such tests after I knew her, and on the day that she met with the accident, that disabled her for life, there was no horse in the world that was able to make a race with her. This, I know, sounds like talk, and talk is cheap; but you may put it down as an absolute certainty, that on that day *Lady Thorn could trot a mile in 2:10 in harness, or 2:15 to wagon.* I will not say how much faster than this the old mare could trot. I never saw her trot a full mile at her best but once, and there are two other men living besides myself, who can tell how fast that was, but I shall never tell, and it is probable that they will not. It was so fast that it would not be credited by the public, and so we agreed that we would never mention the time. But I will say this much: It was a faster gait for the whole mile than I ever saw kept up by any other horse for a single quarter.

Lady Thorn was bred in Fayette County, Ky., and my friend L. Herr, of Lexington, who is owner of her full brother, Mambrino Patchen, and who owned and trained her before she came north, has sent me an account of her early history. She was bred by Levi S. Rodes, who owned her dam, and bred her to Mambrino Chief; the produce, foaled 1856, was Thorn. Her dam was a blood bay mare 15 1-2 hands high, owned by William Rodes, of Fayette

County, Ky. This mare had all the points of the stoutest thoroughbred, and was of fine quality. Her legs and feet were remarkably good in every point, and she was a regular, smooth, and even trotter. She was got by Gano, a son of American Eclipse, his dam Betsy Richards by Sir Archy. Thorn's second dam was by Sir William, a grandson of Sir Archy, and the blood of her third dam cannot be traced. When a yearling past Mr. Rodes broke her to sulky, and he states that she was then very kind in her disposition, and showed no indications of bad temper in any way. When she was two years old she was sold to Harry Dunlap for \$300 and two boxes of cigars. Mr. Dunlap drove her both single and double during that summer and fall, driving her without blinds, and at all hours of the day and night. He was very fond of playing billiards, and used to drive her to Lexington, and put her in Dr. Herr's stable until past midnight, when he would take her out and drive home, a circumstance which shows that she was then kind and gentle. During the fall she was taken with distemper, and Dr. Herr had her under treatment for a few weeks. Upon her recovery Dunlap got a sulky from Dr. Herr, and drove her out, the first time that she had been taken out for exercise after recovering. It was a cold windy day, and Dr. Herr cautioned him regarding the risk he was taking in driving her on so cold a day, she feeling as playful as she did; but nothing short of driving her would satisfy him. She had on, under the harness, a heavy blanket, which came down below her knees and hocks, as was then fashionable. He drove her out on the Harrodsburg pike, 1 1-2 miles, and in turning to come back a gale of wind struck the long blanket, and she made a lunge and kick, and the result was she hung her left hind leg over the cross-bar and got thrown; and as there was no one to assist there was considerable rolling and tumbling about on the pike before she could be extricated from the sulky. It was in this way that she got the serious fright that nearly ruined her, and it took Dr. Herr a good while to

get her over it; but she never ran nor got loose from a vehicle. In the winter coming three years old, Dr. Herr bought one half interest in her, and afterwards, Mr. Dunlap having trouble about money matters, sold his remaining interest to the Doctor, to be payable when he sold her. At three years old she trotted and received forfeits, and it became evident that she could trot fast. At four years old she lost her speed and could not beat 3:17; and yet she looked well, fed well, and was the picture of health, doing, in short, admirably in every particular, except that she could not send herself along the ground to make time. She was bred this season to Cassius M. Clay, Jr., giving her one leap, her owner thinking that if she stood he would have every reason to expect something good, and that if she did not stand the first time, as it was late in the season, he would not breed her again. But she failed to get with foal, and the next spring, when she was five years old, her speed came to her again, and she could go very fast, and continued to do well every season until he sold her, which he did when she was seven years old. During the war she was sent, along with some of Dr. Herr's other horses, to Ohio, for safety.

Her turf career commenced when she was three years old, and in all of her races in Dr. Herr's hands she was known as Maid of Ashland. The summer she was three years old, she was matched in three races. She received forfeit from two of these, and trotted the other against Capt. Thomas Steele's Snow Storm, 3 in 5, which was won by Thorn in three straight heats, it not being necessary for her to display even an exercising gait, and not seeking to make time, was pulled all the way. In the fall she was trotted in the Lexington Stake. Kentucky Chief, the Stanhope mare, Ericsson, and Lady Thorn started. Ericsson and the Stanhope mare were distanced in the first heat. Lady Thorn, under the disadvantages of extra weight, a heavy road sulky, kicking, and breaking harness, was second. She lapped on Kentucky Chief's wheel, and but for a

mishap in the second heat, would have won it and the race. She trotted under the drawbacks named, in about 2:52. At the Louisville Fall Meeting she was entered in the three-year old race, against Kentucky Chief and others, all of which Dr. Herr thought she could beat. In the race, after trotting in the lead, her bit broke, and having a nose band on her bridle, she was gradually taken up without any demonstrations of kicking or ill temper, and of course walked home and was distanced. In 1863, at the spring meeting, Louisville, Ky., she was entered in a 3 in 5 race, free for all. Belle of Indiana and Thorn trotted for the purse, Thorn winning at her ease in three straight heats. The next day she was entered in the two-mile-heat race, with Indiana Belle, Mountain Jack, and others, and Thorn won without ever being extended in any part of the race, Dr. Herr's object being to drive her behind, in front, and in the crowd occasionally; and then letting her work through the horses to the front, so as to test her in a crowd. Soon after this race she was sold to C. P. Relf, of Pennsylvania, and taken North, she being at that time seven years old. Mr. Relf owned her until the fall of 1865, and during this time she was handled by Sam. McLaughlin, who drove her in her first race with Dexter, at the Old Union Course. It was Dexter's second year on the turf, and he had already secured a record of 2:24 1-2. The mare was two years older, but Dexter was regarded as a certain winner, for up to that time he had never been beaten. But it was Thorn's day. She won the first heat in 2:24, the second in 2:26 1-2, Dexter took the third in 2:27, and the mare finished the race by taking the next heat in 2:26 1-4. This race was trotted June 12, 1865. McLaughlin won two races with her in 1863, the year that Mr. Relf bought her. The next year she did not do much good, and only won one race, but this was in very fast time, for she made a record of 2:24 in the second heat. She won two races in 1865, before Relf sold her, one in which she beat Dexter and one with Frank Vernon and Stonewall Jackson. In the fall of this

year Mr. A. Welch and J. D. McMann bought her, and they let Dan Pfifer have her to drive. He won a race with her that fall, beating Geo. Wilkes and Lady Emma, the best heat being 2:27 1-4. The next year she won six races, but none of them were very fast. In 1867 she won five races, one of them being a two-mile race, to wagon, but the best one of the year was at Fashion Course, September 30, when she beat Mountain Boy, Lucy, and Bun. Thorn got the first heat in 2:25 3-4, the Boy won the second in 2:24 1-2, and then Thorn took the next two in 2:24 each, which shows how game a mare she was. In 1868 she beat nearly all the best horses on the turf: Lucy, Geo. Wilkes, Gen. Butler, Rolla Golddust, Rhode Island, Mountain Boy, Geo. Palmer, and got her record down to 2.20 1-2. Dan Pfifer drove her the first part of 1869, and beat American Girl twice and Goldsmith Maid once, but in August J. D. McMann took her himself, as Pfifer was sick. The last race that Pfifer drove her was her first tilt with Goldsmith Maid, and it was a hot one, but Thorn disposed of it in three heats in 2:21 3-4—2:20 1-2—2:21 1-4. But the two mares met again a month later, at Prospect Park, and as it was the first time that McMann had driven her a good deal of interest was awakened in the race. American Girl was also in this fight, but Thorn was again able to win in straight heats, and she put them all in close together, 2:20 3-4—2:20 1-2—2:20 1-4, which was the best race she had ever trotted up to that time. McMann felt very much elated over this performance, and he continued from that time on to drive her himself as long as he owned her. He won five more great races with her that season, the last and best being at Narragansett Park, October 8, when she beat Geo. Palmer, Goldsmith Maid, Lucy, and American Girl. This was the fastest race ever trotted up to that date, Thorn got the first, second, and fourth in 2:19 3-4—2:18 1-4—2:21, and Geo. Palmer got the third in 2:19 3-4. This was the fastest race the old mare ever trotted and the time made in the second heat is her best record.

In the spring of 1870, I think in the month of May, I bought the old mare. When I went first to buy her, McMann had her over at Prospect Park. I saw him, and asked him how much he wanted for her, and he said \$30,000. Says I, "Won't you take half that for her?" and he says, "No." Says I, "Wouldn't you take \$20,000 for her," and he said, "No." "Well," says I, "I'll take her," just as quick as that. This rather took him by surprise, and he looked at me, and says: "Well, it will be all right I s'pose; Mr. Welch and I own her." "Well," says I, "you are getting all you asked for her, ain't you?" and he says: "Yes, that's so." We turned right around, went back to his house, and fixed it up. When we bought her we hadn't been to see her, and when we went to get her, we found that she was quite lame on her big ankle, which rather surprised me, for I did not expect to find her lame, although I knew of her big ankle, of course. I worked her a little, and she got worse in her ankle, and I let her up. I then went to bathing her leg with wormwood and brandy, putting it on hot. In about three weeks she began to get all over it. I don't think I had a harness on her in three weeks. I drove her the first two or three days after I got her, and then didn't have harness on her for three weeks. When I first began to work her she used to hit herself right in the ankle joint, on top of the hoof, and that was what used to make her break. I have seen her break with Pfeiffer when she was trotting with Dexter, and he would cut her with the whip, and she would stop still and not stir. He shod her with a pound and five ounces forward, but after I got her I cut it down to ten ounces, and I shod her heavier behind than she was ever shod before. I had twelve ounces on her behind, which is a pretty heavy hind shoe. I shod her long in the heels—made the shoe long, and then put a long heel on—a heel caulked lengthwise, so that when she would go over it would catch her, and stop her in her hind legs, and she never hit herself when she was shod in that

way. I used to give her a mile and repeat after she got over being lame, and then give her a dose of physic, and let her up for two days and walk her, and then give her another mile and repeat again, and another dose of physic. She was fat when I got her, and I had to get it off. I was afraid her leg would give out, and didn't want to have her too heavy, so as to break it down, but after her leg got strong again I only trotted her three races, and she won one of them, and never made but one break, which was on the homestretch, when she beat Wilkes. My first race with her was on the Fourth of July, against Geo. Wilkes and others at Prospect Park. It was an easy race for Thorn, and she won in three straight heats. We had another race on the same track, July 22, with Goldsmith Maid. This was looked upon by outsiders as pretty nearly an even thing, for although the Thorn had beaten her in every race the previous year, yet people thought that it was doubtful if she could do it now. They would come and look the old mare over, and when they saw her big leg, and how fat she was, they thought she couldn't trot. But her leg wasn't as big as they thought it was; for I kept it bandaged, with the sponges under the bandage, which made it look very big. McLaughlin came to the stable when I was away, and asked the boy to let him look at her. He complied, and when he looked her over, he asked the boy how much work she had had. The boy replied: "Oh, Mr. Mace has driven her a couple of miles in '35 or '36." "Is that all?" says Sam. "Yes," replied the boy. "Does Dan think he will beat the little mare?" inquired Sam. "Yes," replied the boy, "but I don't know about that. The old critter's got a mighty big leg here." Sam turned round and said; "Oh, thunder! she can't trot. She's a hundred pounds too big, and she'll quit like an old sow." And so he went away firm in the belief that the old mare was dead lame, short of work, and in no fix to trot, and he put his money on the little mare at about \$7,000 to \$1,000 on Thorn. I

told a few of my friends, among them Mr. H. N. Smith, to bet on the big mare, but he was afraid of her. "Why," says he, "you'll have to go three heats better than 2:20 to beat the Maid." "I don't care," says I, "how fast she goes; I can beat her." I had given the big mare a quarter in '32, just to see if she had her speed, and so I knew I was safe.

When we were called up for the word, we had a good deal of scoring at the start. Doble would always turn short, and come up ahead. He had the pole, but when we got the word I just spoke to the old mare, and she shot ahead, and had the pole in less than no time. I then pulled up as much as I could, and waited for Doble to come up, and then I sung out: "Why, Budd, the little mare is all off to day; what is the matter?" At this Budd shook her up, and she made one of her reveilles, shut her eyes and shook her head, and made a rush for the lead; but I just let the Lady out enough to hold her off. I did not want to beat her much, for I did not want to show Thorn's speed. I kept with him to the homestretch, and then let out a little, and beat him about three lengths. The second heat was trotted about the same way; but in the third heat, when I got to the half, I let Budd get a half length ahead of me, and then the crowd began to yell out: "See! there she goes by!" Doble at once commenced to crowd in on me, to take the pole. I yelled at him to keep out where he belonged, but he kept pulling in, and so I just called on the old Lady a little, and in a flash she was ahead of the little mare. I says to Budd: "I guess you'll stay on the outside now, won't you?" And so I carried him out, and kept him there to the next turn, when I left him, and won the race easily. It was no trouble at all to beat the Maid. I could beat her just as easy as a good '30 horse could beat a 3-minute horse. I think I could have afforded to hold Thorn back, and given her good ten lengths at the half, and before she could have got to the stretch I

could have walked right over her. I could back and let him get almost the pole, and then speak to the old mare, and she would step right in and take her lead again very handy. It was just a good, jogging gait for her to beat Goldsmith.

The next was at Rochester, August 3. When I got to Rochester the track was as bad a track as ever you saw any horse trot on. I don't think there had been a race on it in years. Flora Temple trotted on it, the quickest mile ever trotted on it, in 2:28. The track is a mile and 18 1-2 feet long, and where we trotted we had to trot in the middle of the track: it was all grass grown, and they had harrowed it, and it was just like riding over plowed ground. They got up a purse for George Palmer and Lady Thorn, for \$3,000, I think. The mare was 100 to 20 the favorite. Palmer had the pole, and the minute we got the word she took the lead and won the first heat easy. Around the first turn there was just room enough for a horse to go inside of a wet spot, where the water had stood on the track, and she had to go in and take the pole, or else go through that wet spot, and I had to send her for it right at the start, for this wet place was right on the first turn as you went around, and I had to outtrot Palmer, from the stand to the first turn, in order to take it. Then she won next heat very easy, and the third heat I wanted to find out whether she had her speed, because I wanted to trot her against Dexter's time at Buffalo, and I pulled her back as slow as I could go to the half mile pole with Palmer so as not to be too far ahead of him. I wanted him to come up to me but he didn't get there, and I drove her from there home in 1:06, the last half mile; the mile was 2:22. And then when she came on the homestretch I slacked her up some, for I thought Palmer was out, and I wanted him to save his distance. Just then the crowd was all on the stretch so thick you couldn't move, but they all began to fall back just enough to let a horse through, and just as I struck the distance stand a fellow with a long whip struck the lash right around the old

mare. When he struck her she started like a flash of lightning, and went clear on around to the half mile pole before I could stop her. I think she trotted a quarter then faster than she ever trotted on a race track. You couldn't see your hand before you for the people there on that day; they hadn't any policemen, and they all rushed right out on the track and took the fence and everything, and we had hard work to get our horses up to the stable between heats.

This was Thorn's last race. On the next day we intended to ship from Rochester to Buffalo, and in loading on the cars, the accident occurred which ended the old mare's career on the turf. We were loading the horses into a car at the Rochester depot, just opposite Congress Hall. We were using a movable platform, or bridge, which hooked on to the car, and reached to the ground, forming an inclined plane, up which the horses were led from the ground into the car. It was very substantial, had a low side railing, and was entirely safe. We had got all the horses in excepting the old mare, and I was leading her in myself. I was in front of her, and a man was on each side. She stepped her right foot up on the bridge, then made a step with her left, which was her blind side, but instead of setting this foot on the platform, as she intended, she missed it, and it went over on the near side. She sank down with it as the foot went down, and went clear to the ground. She did not struggle, but went down very quietly. In the meantime her hind feet had never left the ground, and had the man, who was on the near side, had the presence of mind to place his hand against her as she put her foot off, she would have taken herself up, and all would have been right. But he was a little bit frightened, and did nothing. No sooner had she got to the ground than she made a sudden spring to get up, her hind feet slipped from under her, she fell with her hip upon the railroad iron, the bone was broken, and the greatest trotter the world has ever produced was disabled for life. In her first spring, she gave me such a sudden wrench that my shoulder was dislocated, but

in the excitement of the moment I did not know that I was hurt for sometime afterwards. I had it put in place, and it was doing nicely, but the next week, when I was driving Harry Harley in a race at Buffalo, I made a sudden movement with my right arm, and the joint again flew out of the socket, and the arm was powerless. I gathered up the lines as well as I could with my left hand, and drove in, winning the heat. Well, as soon as the old mare fell upon the iron she gave a low, plaintive "whinner." I put my hand on her head, spoke to her, and she again sprang to her feet, but her leg was hanging useless by her side. I led her along, and she hobbled up town on three legs to a private stable, and I remained there several days to take care of her. She recovered partially, but her trotting days were over, and about a year afterwards I sold her to H. N. Smith, of the Fashion Stud Farm, to be used as a broodmare, the only use to which she could be put.

I have no reflections to make upon anybody for this mishap. It was one of those unforeseen accidents that will sometimes occur in spite of all precautions, but it was a serious blow to me. I had intended to start her on the following week at Buffalo, where a large purse had been offered for any horse that would beat Dexter's 2:17 1-4 upon the same track. I knew that Thorn could do it easily, but I had not yet definitely decided to make the attempt; I was afraid that if I showed such time with her in this race, that in all the subsequent races they would handicap her by making her go to wagon, which I did not like. I had decided to wait until I got to Buffalo, and if I could find the betting on time against the mare good enough, so that I could win a good big pile by beating the time, I would do so, otherwise I should just send her fast enough to win the race from the other horses. My plan was, after I had beaten Dexter's time with her, to match her against the best time that had ever been made, at one, two, and three miles, to both harness and wagon, and I knew that I could win in every case,

for she was the fastest trotter that ever lived, in my opinion. I said before, that it might be set down as an absolute certainty, that on the day she was crippled she could trot a mile in 2:10, and that I would not tell how much faster she had shown, but I will say this much: I could drive her the last half mile of a trot race in 1:04, and if she had remained all right to the close of that season, they would have to breed trotters a long time after I am dead and gone to beat the records she would have made.

They always talk about a dead horse when you tell such stories, and that's the reason I don't want, and never did want, to talk about that mare. No man ever heard me say how fast she could trot, but they can ask John Doty, or Bill Saunders. They saw her finish her mile when she had a trial, and any one that doubts she was the fastest horse living can ask either of those men.

CHAPTER II.

Lady Thorn Continued—Peculiarities of her gait and Disposition—A Proposition to Beat Dexter's Wagon Trial, and Mr. Bonner's Reply—The Cause of her Bad Breaks—Effect of Mace's Shoeing—Her Speed Compared with Other Trotters—How she was Fed and Driven—Her Retirement at Fashion Stud Farm, and her First Foal.

With me Lady Thorn was a kind, pleasant driver, and was always ready to trot her best. Her gait was a peculiar one, and was noted for its absence of what is termed knee-action. Her stride was very long, and this, with the absence of knee-action above alluded to, gave her what "horse-writers" usually describe as a daisy-cutting action. When jogging, her gait had an awkward, ungainly appearance on account of this length of stride and peculiar action of the forelegs; but when she got to going at speed this awkwardness all

disappeared. She had a good deal of daylight under her, and, from her make-up, few horsemen would pick her out for a great campaigner. I have alluded before to her great speed, but I never could time her quarters, as they pretend to now-a-days, in 29s., and I don't believe there is one on earth that ever went a quarter in 30s., or even in 31s.; and when a man tells me he has a trotter that can go a quarter in 30s., or 31s., I am going to bet him that he can't show it.

There was some talk, at one time, of offering her to Mr. Bonner, and claiming the \$100,000 that he had proposed to give for a horse that could beat Dexter's performance to road wagon at Prospect Park. McManⁿ went to Bonner and offered to do it. This made Bonner a little mad, and he says to Mac, "Will you take your mare from my stable here, and drive her from here to Prospect Park?" Mac says, "My mare is a valuable one, and I don't like to drive her over the stones, but I don't suppose it would hurt her at all; I think she would do it just the same. I didn't come here to talk about it at all, Mr. Bonner; I came here to say if you want to see a horse that can do it in the same time your horse did, and you want to purchase such a horse, why, I've just come to say that I've got one you can hold your watch on." McManⁿ saw that Bonner didn't want it done, and so he dropped it. I have no doubt at all as to the ability of the old mare to beat Dexter's performance to road wagon. I am not saying that Dexter's performance was not a great one, for great it certainly was; and I don't think there is another horse in the world could do what he did, excepting Lady Thorn.

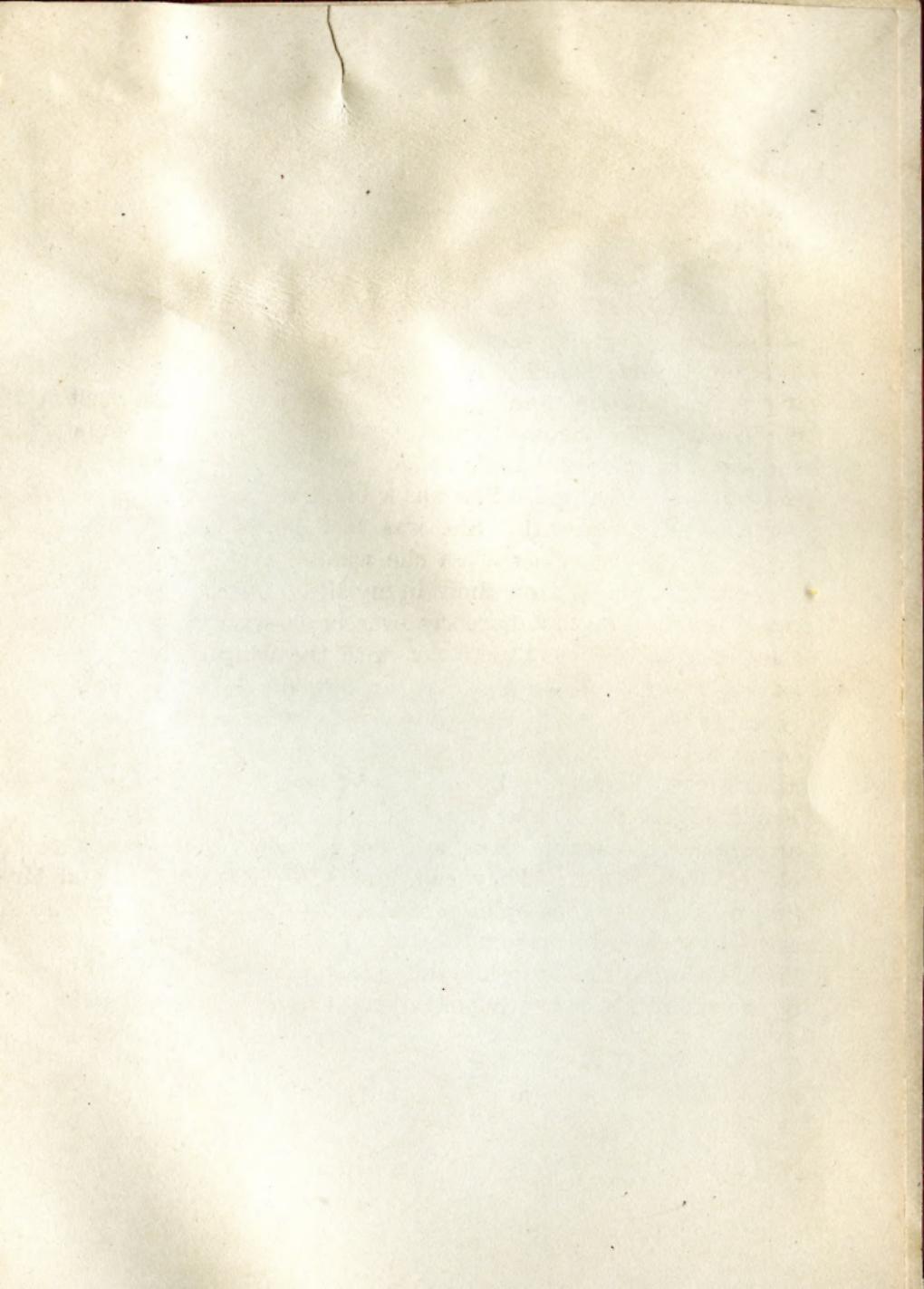
I think my plan of shoeing her, which I mentioned in a former chapter, had a very favorable effect on her trotting. It prevented her from cutting herself, and, after I shod her, she never made more than three breaks, and they were all good ones. I always thought this would be the case, and I used to talk to Pfeifer about it. She used to cut herself, and then she would always make a bad break

but she never broke from any other cause. She was the best feeder I ever saw; I used to give her a daily allowance of nine quarts of oats, and two quarts of corn, divided into four feeds a day, during all the time I had her.

My experience with her was confined to barely one season. It could not have been my luck to have had her longer than that. If it had been I wouldn't be rubbing trotters or driving them now; I would have won more money than any one trotter ever did with the arrangements I had made. I was going to get the tracks, as I said before, and trot her to beat time. They tell about Dutchman going three miles. I would have liked to have seen *her* go three miles, she would have beaten his time all to pieces. There was no horse on the turf, last season, which could trot the first hundred yards as fast as she could. She wasn't a very good scorer, they said, but she learned to be a good one, and I don't think there ever was a horse that could beat her a hundred yards from the wire, and she could trot just about such a gait all the way as they could trot a quarter. She had wonderful endurance and gameness, but they all said she was not a speedy mare. Now that was what I thought she had more than anything else. That was what made her have so much bottom, because she had the speed; she had so much speed that there wasn't any of 'em could outfoot her. She didn't have to exert herself to trot, because she had so much speed. I don't think she ever made a break with Mr. Pfeifer, or anybody else, unless she hit herself; and, in all my experience with her, I never saw her when she wanted to break. She had so much speed that it was no use to crowd her to a break.

I can best illustrate what I mean, by referring to a race that is fresh in the minds of all turfmen, I mean Hopeful's race with American Girl, at Hartford, last year. On that day Hopeful could have trotted a mile in 2:12, although his best time was only 2:17 1-4. I never let loose of his head, never asked him to go, and never

wanted him to go, and in no place in that mile did he go as fast as he could. Now, how easy Hopeful could beat American Girl that day! Well, Thorn could outrot him just as easy as he could out-trot American Girl. I don't think there is a horse alive that can outrot him now; not a horse to-day on the turf that can outspeed him, but I think Thorn could trot right around him. She could trot as much faster than he can, as he can faster than American Girl could. The old mare Thorn was very peculiar with her mouth; she was kind of fretful and fractious, but when she got used to you she would do anything. She was a horse that never wanted to be whipped or fought with. She was very gentle all the time I had her, and I never saw her when she wanted to do wrong. I never struck her hard but three times in my life. I struck her at Providence once. The first time she ever broke with me was the time she cut herself. I gave her a cut with the whip and she struck a run, and when I pulled her to a trot, how she did go; the lick nearly scared the life out of her. After that, whenever I asked her to trot, you can bet she was a trotter. But the old mare's racing days are over, and she is now having a quiet time of it down at Smith's Fashion Stud Farm, near Trenton, N. J., where she is likely to be a valuable broodmare. Her first foal is a colt, coming two years old, by Gen. Knox. They call him Gen. Washington, and Mr. Smith has a very good opinion of him. He is a slashing big fellow, and I hope he will make a trotter. I hear that Smith intends to breed Goldsmith Maid to him this spring, and, if he does, the union of two such lines of trotting blood ought to produce good results.



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